

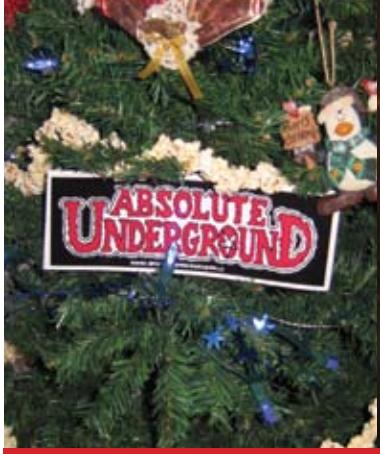
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Vol. 5 - #1 Issue 25 - December/January 2009

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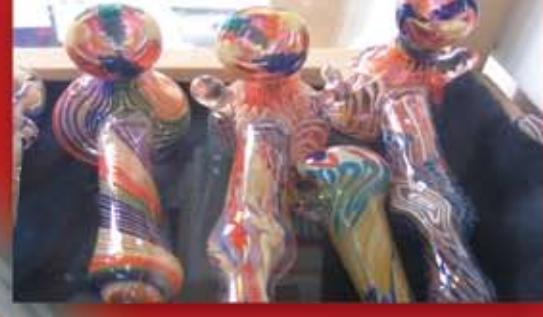
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ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

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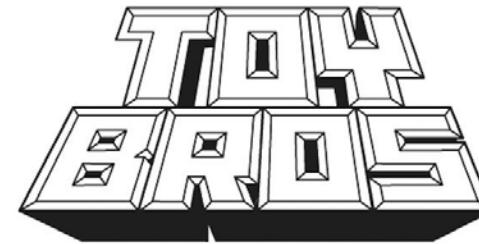
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EVILE, ROB ZOMBIE,
THE DREADNOUGHTS**

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Ratboy Roy and the Glory Holes

Interview with Ratboy Roy Hole (vocals) and Hoon Third Hole (bass)

AU: How'd you come up with this name?

Ratboy Roy: They let me in the band last, dude. They made up the name, I came on board after. We're glorious.

AU: Like the Habs?

Ratboy: Vive les Canadiens! We're that glorious, man. We're a disgusting, pervert fucking porno band, dude.

Hoon: Obviously I started a band that was right up my fucking alley

AU: So the band was named Ratboy Roy and the Glory Holes before you even joined?

Hoon: He wants us to get rid of the Ratboy Roy part. I don't think it's a good idea. He's got lead singer syndrome and we have to cater to his houchie little ass. What can I say? There's no copyright issues with the Glory Holes, but with Ratboy Roy and the Glory Holes we're original, no one can touch us.

AU: What is the plural of orifice?

Hoon: Orifie.

Ratboy: Your mom.

AU: So is there only one Glory Hole or more than one?

Ratboy: Every girl has three holes, the game is to be the first in either one of them.

AU: This being you're first show, how many jams did you put in first?

Ratboy: We've jammed three times, that's was enough.

AU: What other bands are you from?

Obnoxious Drunk: Your momma, your momma, your momma and your momma.

Hoon: We're Victoria Punk Rock All-Stars, so fuck you!

Ratboy: I know the guys in AWG they let me carry their gear and shit.

Hoon: I heard that Lesbian Fish Magnet is a band.

Obnoxious Drunk: Lesbian Fridge Magnet!

Hoon: No, we haven't made those yet.

AU: How many songs did you play tonight?

Ratboy: We played four originals. Song number three was called "Meat Slug." That's about preying on the older girls at the park, you know, like 15 year old ones. And the last one is called "Bigot Diddler," about a racist fucking pedophile. It's all about the slimy Rock n' Roll. Then we played an old LID song at the end.

AU: Tell us some lyrics.

Ratboy: "I live downtown with a family of rats, I park my car where the hookers take craps." That's all true.

AU: It was someone's birthday tonight and they're over the hill now you said. How old did they turn?

Hoon: 19!!! Finished. Done. No good to us anymore.

Ratboy: There's a new crop coming up, they're like waves at a beach.

Hoon: The thing I like about high school girls... I get older and they stay the same age.

Ratboy: You know what I love? Chicks with old guy syndrome. This is a fantastic syndrome in young girls. They love disgusting old guys and thank fucking Christ!

AU: When you were younger, did you think the chicks your age were bangin' the older dudes?

Hoon: Oh no, I was banging them.

Obnoxious Drunk: You were banging the older dudes!

VICTORIA VENOM



Ratboy: Yeah, Hoon was getting to the old dudes first.

AU: Older dudes, tell us more.

Ratboy: Older dudes, yeah, yeah. They're the ones who pay me for sex when I can't get work. Whatever dude, you do what you gotta do. I don't owe you an explanation!

AU: Why does Hoon carry candy in his pockets? To entice young girls into his van?

Ratboy: Let's just say Hoon has problems.

AU: Plans for the future?

Ratboy: Playing more shows, upsetting more Dads.

Hoon: Motley Crue said it best, "You better lock up your daughters when the fucking Glory Holes come to town."

AU: Do you guys have band names?

Ratboy: We got four names: Dick Greashole on drums, Fresh Fish Hole on guitar, Third Hole on bass, and I'm Rat Hole.

What's on your band rider?

Hoon: Lubes.

AU: Sum up the Glory Holes.

Ratboy: Scumbag Rock and Roll. Don't look for anything else.

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**The Real
McKenzies**

"Roll Back the Peat and Stay a While"

Interview w/ Paul McKenzie

By Emily (Firth) Kendy

Paul McKenzie sits down at a pub on Commercial Drive wearing some serious road scars. The band has been touring every corner of the world this year, promoting their new album, *Off the Leash*, their fourth on Fat Wreck Chords. They've been everywhere from an apple orchard gig (the fruit, not the brand) in the Netherlands to a last-minute headlining concert to a 20,000-odd crowd in Madrid. Soon he'll be off on another cross-Canada tour, then another European tour to countries like Scandinavia, Russia and Moscow. It's just another year in the life of one of Canada's longest-running and hardest working live bands around. Oh, the stitches in his cheek? He decided to make fun of the Croatian soccer team while on stage, in Croatia (blaming it on the 80 proof Slivovitz moonshine). He took a full beer bottle

to the face resulting in the obvious deep cut, and less obvious broken jawbone and missing tooth. But he knows he had it coming and doesn't resent Croatia for it in the least. In fact, he's considered in other circles of the city some what of a Messiah. Over double Caesar specials on a drowsy Sunday, Paul expounds on everything under the sun and beyond – with an appropriate Scottish bent.

The McKenzie Tartan

The McKenzies, it's the best. Have you seen the Rose tartan? It's horrible ugh, we won't go there. Ours is... green black red and I think it's one of the nicest ones. Had I known you were so interested I would have brought a book on tartans. You're Scottish? What's your last name? I know you. I know you're people. Kilts, this is a set of kilts, not a pair of kilts. How many have I gone through in my whole life? The rigours of the road tend to deplete the fabric. I suppose I've been through about ten. The one I'm wearing now is a Black Watch kilt, but my McKenzie kilt right now is thread bare, you can see my business.

The Highlands

You should to Scotland. The only trouble is coming back, you won't want to come back. The last time I was there I think I was missing for like three days, I went walking in the highlands. People ask where I'd slept and I says, "You go up to a knoll, roll back the peat and dig a little out, get in and you're warm

as toast." It's great. Take a little Whisky. Some food. Don't you want to know what kind of food? Cans of sardines, herrings and some crackers. Don't you love sardines? Do me a favour. Get some sardines, good ones like Brisling, in water. Get some nice bread, some Squirrely bread, a little bit of margarine or butter, whatever you choose, some nice mustard. Oh yeah! No, they don't have heads anymore... unfortunately. It's not gross; it's pretty good for you. Look at all these McCain products and what's in them – sardines are fish. Case in point. You know what you call a fish with no eyes? Fsh. We found this really great store in WaWa Ontario called the General Store. They have this natural deer sausage in a barrel. It's amazing. It lasted us months. Deer sausage, pickles, crackers and cheese that's what I eat.

Cheese

You ever get Stilton cheese in the States? Well, I'm going to go down there and I'll bring it back. For eight dollars you can get two pounds of extra-aged white cheddar. Whenever I go to the Netherlands they've got the best extra-aged Gouda, the ones with the little crunchy things with the little holes that get all crystallized. When I was there I bought ten Euros worth and the woman was like, "See you tomorrow," which I thought was kind of odd. But when I woke up the next day sure enough I went back and bought 20 more Euros worth.

Favourite Weird Food Combination

This isn't really weird, it's really good and you should try it... get a spotty banana and some really black Cabernet Sauvignon, preferably 14 per cent, like Chilean. Then an anchovy fillet. You put the fillet on the banana

VANCOUVER VENGEANCE

bite it and chew it up and chase it with the red wine. It's really good. Not to mention it gives you everything you need. Protein. Booze. Potassium. The B12 in the banana as well help keep your ligaments lubricated. If I don't eat bananas and I do the fling, I get tendonitis.

Muscles on Women

If Madonna was Scottish she'd be McDonna. Yes, she is very muscular but there are men who enjoy that sort of thing. Take for example my guitar player Dave. I ran into his hotel room because I thought I was seeing a UFO but it was actually just a bunch of birds. I said, "Dave, Dave there's a UFO – what the hell are you watching?" He was naked on the bed watching female body building competitions. Everyone has their idiosyncrasies.

Space

I can talk about space forever. Space is forever. Black hole? The one we're heading towards? There is one directly in our path. After 2012 it'll be a new day. We're going towards it, you know the Mayan Calendar? 2012 it's over. All the other prophecies came true on that calendar. We've ended the age of the fish and heading into the age of the water. But I don't care; I know I'm coming back. I'm looking forward to it, Apocalypse, hurray! Bring it on. People who think they have security? Security is a concept.

Nessie

She's from Inverness. We wrote the song, "Nessie" about the Loch Ness Monster. I've seen her. When ever you're there you have to bring salt and a bell because Nessie loves salt and

the sound of a bell. I've spent a lot of time on the shores of Inverness with a salt and a bell. I've sent the ancient Indian petroglyphs of the Ogopogo it actually does exist. I've heard there is a geologist who says there is a cavern that goes from Okanagan Lake to Loch Ness. Directly to Inverness. They could be related!

Pre-show Warm Ups

I've broken my nose with my knee caps before. Before the show? Oh, a couple of beers, couple of stretches, a shot of Scotch and away you go. The water of life – but never too little and never too much. Do you know the translation Scabagligh is? It's Gaelic for Scottish and means "the water of life."

The Messiah

We have a very big fan base in Croatia. Just because someone bottled me doesn't mean I'm not going to go back there. It's all good. When we played there we were on television. They wanted to close down the youth club and I went on television and said, "Okay, let's be frank here. You take away the youth club and the kids are going to go onto the street and they're going to be mad at you. They're going to be taking it out on your cars, your windows and be tagging your shop fronts." So the next morning we go to get our gear and there were 200 kids in front of the place. They were cheering us because they got a three year extension on the youth club because of what I said. I had to give them a slap on the side of the head about their bureaucratic tunnel vision. This is the youth of tomorrow, the adults of tomorrow.

(realmckenzies.com)



Sacred ally

Interview w/ Collin Wo, guitar

By Ryan Dyer

The black sea of metal being the majestic and sometimes ugly serpent that it is, the waters are at times thick as frozen tar and hard to trench through. It can be accurately described as "balls deep." As a steel canoe a thousand feet long with flame tipped oars, the vessel known

as Sacred Ally has glided above the deep with ease since their formation. Earthquake strength foundations with a virtuosic and formidably iron willed crew make the ship an asset on any voyage, and the sails are set for this year's Gore Games.

If it is an ally you be

needin' best be sacred then, brethren...

AU: The inauguration of Sacred Ally came with performances at Roli Mack's Bandwarz. What did you take from this contest in terms of confidence in the band's ability at the time, and the potential to grow into a major metal force?

Collin Wo: With our performances at Bandwarz, it helped us realize that we have much more confidence and potential than we first realized. With each passing round we realized that now is the perfect time to unleash the unique sound that is Sacred Ally.

AU: There have been a few lineup changes over the three years of Sacred Ally's existence; do you feel as though this line up is the strongest it's ever been?

Wo: Every line up that we have had has offered its unique twist on the music. However, right now with the dynamics and chemistry of this current line up, I do believe it is the strongest it has ever been. The proof is in the shows, we have played more shows with this lineup than the previous.

AU: You took part in Alberta's Own Independent Festival in July. Each band had to sell tickets to determine when their set would take place. How did you guys make out?

Wo: With chicks! Haha, well we actually spent more time rehearsing for the show than actually going out and selling tickets. But we did manage to sell some at the last minute. We sold six tickets which landed us sixth top spot out of 15 bands. This was mostly because most of the other bands didn't sell anything. Whew!

AU: Original keyboardist Pamela Porosky left the band in 2006, what has been the stance on live keyboards since?

Wo: Live keyboards would be nice, but only if someone comes along that fits the Sacred Ally profile. Perhaps on our full-length CD we might incorporate some keyboards here and there.

AU: What have been some of the cornerstone shows that Sacred Ally has been a part of?

Wo: There has been many cornerstone shows that we have played. The list would be huge so I'll have to narrow it down to three. The first would be the Metal Melee show at MacEwan Hall last year. It was by far the largest stage we have played

CALGARY CARNAGE

and to the most people. I think it was roughly 700 or so. The second would be New Years Eve 06-07. We played Innisfail with our own P.A. and it would also be our first out of town show. That gave us our first taste of touring...and we liked it... a lot! The last cornerstone show just happened this summer. We played the Alberta's Own festival out near Sylvan Lake. It was our first outdoor gig, and we played to a few hundred non-metal heads and we were very well received. Plus the party all weekend was one for the history books.

AU: The EP *Balls Deep in Metal* was released in June 2007, what's the status on a full-length?

Wo: We are currently working on our long awaited full length album as we speak. It is coming along slowly but surely. If all goes according to plan we plan for a release date early/mid next year.

AU: Are you guys looking into record labels, or have they been looking into you?

Wo: Currently we haven't been too concerned with looking for a record label at the moment. Our focus right now is our recording. Once we have finished our full length CD, then we will go looking.

AU: What would be a dream show for Sacred Ally to be a part of?

Wo: The Cecil tavern! (laughs) just kidding... The ultimate dream show would be to headline Wacken Open Air or to play Budokan stadium in Japan. Pretty much any large stage with lots of people watching would be wicked.

AU: What do you have in store for the Gore Games, what will you be wearing for Halloween?

Wo: For the Gore Games we are all going to go as GG Allin. All of us will be wearing only a dog collar and shit smeared all over ourselves... am I joking? Come out and find out!

(Sacredally.net or Myspace.com/sacredally)

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- 6 DirtyGirlSocialClub
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- 11 Thrash'n Lassies
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- 13 Fedora
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& Guests
- 16 Christopher Ford
- 18 Wolvengaurd
Stand Down
Before the Kill

- 19 Bloated Pig
Miggido
Voice of Aggression
- 20 Jana's B-Day with
Pure City
Flatlined
- 23 The Dirty Roses
- 26 Second Annual
Kristmas Karaoke

JANUARY

- 3 NightRocket
& Guests
- 9 Matt Blais Connection
Jonathin Li
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- 10 GroundUp
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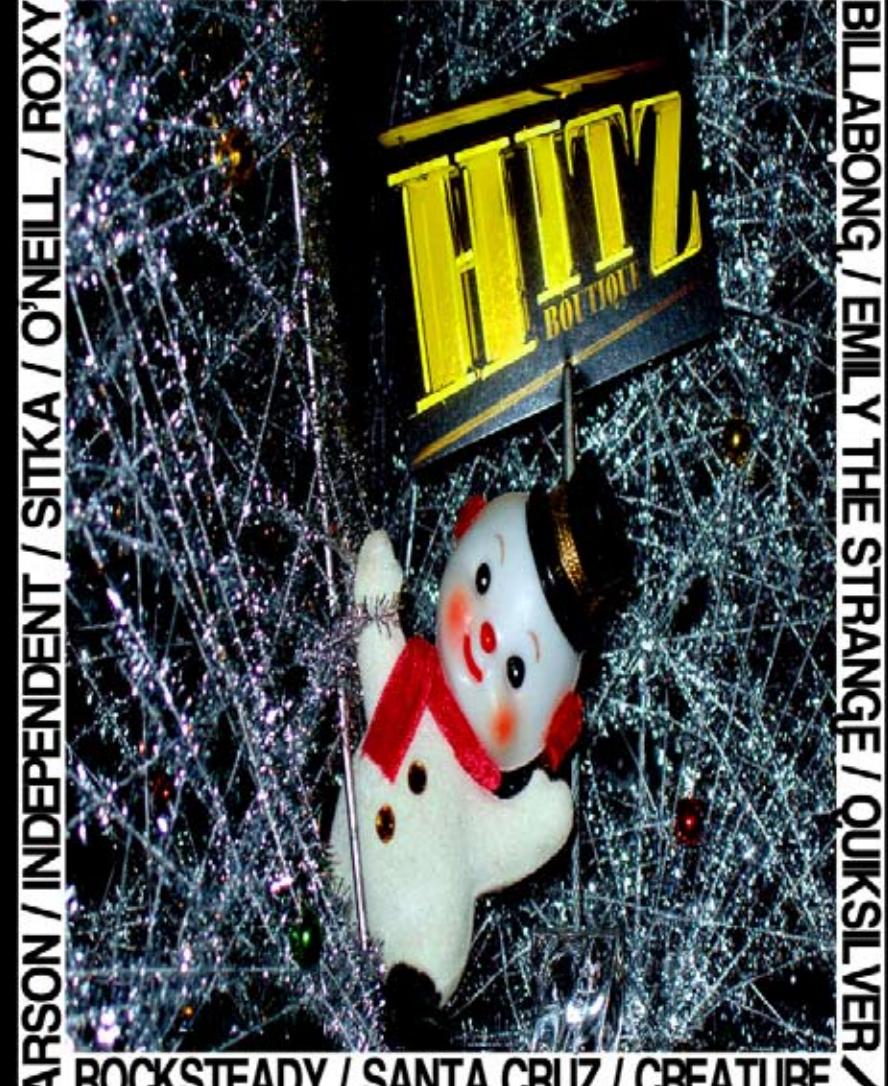
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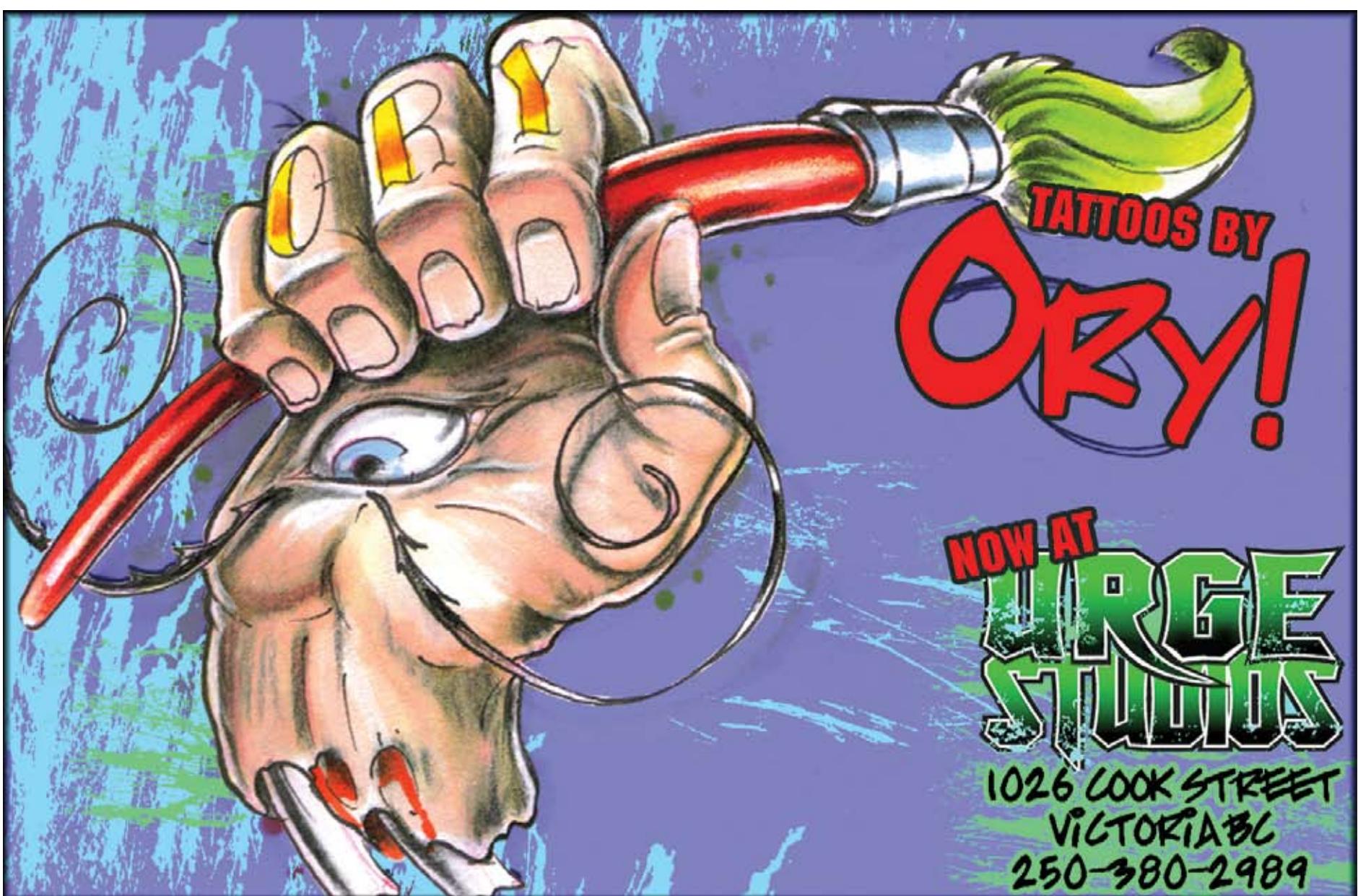
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The Blackout Brigade

"Empty Bottles, Busted Faces & Broken Bones"

Interview w/ Graham Riddle, bass, Danny Ransom, guitars, James, guitars, Scott, vox and Rob, drums

By Pauly HC

Photos: Joey Senft

Forming out of the ashes of a few defunct oi and punk rock bands in Winnipeg, the Blackout Brigade are tearing the Winnipeg scene a new asshole with an in your face street punk sound. It's hard not to respect a band that in their first ever live show - the lead singer got the tar beaten out of him beforehand - he went on stage covered in blood and performed while the culprits stuck around for the show and then continued the brouhaha in the alley afterwards, hard fucking core.

AU: You guys have opened for some big names all across the board in your short existence. What have some of the best ones been?

Graham: We haven't played too many shows but so far we've played with the Horrorpops, Trouser Mouth and with

the Cancer Bats, they were all wicked shows, Cancer Bats were crazy good dudes ... the Trouser Mouth show was wicked it was a fund raiser to help our buddy get some bail money together, we were supposed to play with Helix but we got dropped off the bill last minute, that would have been rad!!

James: hahaha, the Horrorpops. They fucking hated us.

Dan: They all sucked compared to us.

AU: I heard a crazy story that involved head trauma and continuing a show after a royal beat down - what happened there?

Graham: Bwahaha, news travels don't it.

Scott: Oh man, I don't know what to say about that... ever look back at the last few years of your life and think "man I should have got punched out for that?" Well, I guess those last few years caught up with me. Luckily the guys that jumped me liked the band enough to stick around 'til after the set was done and finish what they started.

Rob: That made for an interesting first show.

James: Hahaha, you had it coming, but nobody's perfect.

AU: To what can you attribute the resurgence of the classic "street punk" sound?

Scott: Empty bottles and way too much time.

Dan: It's just good, it's shit that gets me going.

Graham: I wouldn't say that it's necessarily a resurgence. There are just too many good bands out there that need to be heard. Not to sound cliche but it's getting easier for these bands to get their name out there these days with things like torrent sites like punkoiska.com, good music that would

normally be hard to find is just more accessible.

Rob: Is it just that everyone is sick of shitty music? haha. The classics never die.

AU: Tell us about the new record. Who recorded it, where, all that crap?

Graham: Well, some of the songs were written for the Knockarounds and a few were crackdown songs, I recorded at our jam space on a macbook that I borrowed from my girlfriend. We would do the all the tracking then I'd take the computer home and edit all night and day until we could start more tracks. It's nice not being in a studio where you have to worry about how much time and money you are spending, you just get to have some beers and lay down some tracks, if you fuck up and get frustrated you had time to go for a smoke or piss off for a while instead of freaking out.

AU: So I take it by your name you fellas like to party...

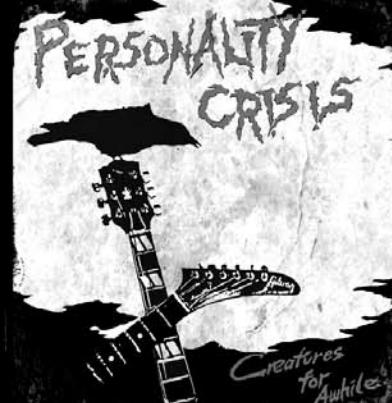
Graham: It was actually a title from a Knockarounds' song, a song that we wrote with the original singer Lawrence, and the title came from the magazine the *Modern Drunkard*, it was listed under the A through Z of drinking and B stood for Blackout Brigade. I think the meaning was something like, "a group of friends go out with the sole purpose of getting blackout drunk" we read it, thought it was hilarious and said we gotta incorporate that in a song. Then when it came time to get a name for the new band we just thought it fit.

AU: It's fairly apparent you wear your influences on your sleeves. Who are they?

Rob: Rose tattoo kick ass, can't narrow



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it down.

James: The Bones and Angel City Outcasts.

Scott: Name dropping is for losers.

Dan: The Bones, that's all there is to it.

Graham: Is it really that obvious?

Wow, I've really been into Whiskey Rebels, the Welch Boys and as always Discipline.

AU: Seven worst things about being a punk rock band on the prairies?

1. Touring sucks balls, the closes places for a band like us to play is at least a 17 hour drive.
2. People will always use winter as a scapegoat for not going out to shows.
3. Winnipeg has a reputation for getting an all ages venue, then losing it after one or two shows, the kids out here are nuts.
4. In Winnipeg the cool thing to do at your favourite Band's show is to

either stand back of the venue and look tough, or stand in the lobby and talk about how awesome the band used to be.

5. Getting jumped at your own shows always sucks.
6. Everything that could possibly suck about Winnipeg does, Winnipeg fucking sucks dude.
7. Too many assholes here and we hang out with all of them.

AU: Where can we get your record and when are you going on tour?

Graham: Well I hope your new years resolution is to get your ear pussy fucked everybody because the album will be out January 2009 and we will hopefully be touring across Canada in the spring if we can get our shit together. Get our record at insurgence.net and pick up our old band, The Knockarounds record as well! (Myspace.com/jointheblackoutbrigade)

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 Canada's Drunkest Hardcore band for 16 years are still drunk. Only this time, with a new CD!

By Uncle Anus

On December first 1978, legendary concert promoters Gary Topp and Gary Cormier, better known as The Garys, presented The Last Pogo: a rollicking, riotous concert at the venerable Horseshoe Tavern. On the bill were seminal bands from Toronto's punk rock scene: The Scenics, Cardboard Brains, The Secrets, The Mods, The Ugly, The Viletones and Teenage Head. During the concert, the frenetic energy of 500+ thrashing fans in the club boiled over and a near riot ensued. Now in 2008, the film is being released on DVD and launched with a reunion show of sorts. The same bar, the same bands, but how will it end? I'm here with filmmaker Colin Brunton



awesome bands from New York, England and Toronto.

AU: How did you get involved with filming The Last Pogo?

Brunton: I had just recently finished a small filmmaking course and popped into the 'Shoe one night when I heard about the show. Without any thought about it I blurted out "Hey! That would make a really good movie!"

AU: How was the movie released?

Brunton: For the first 10 years no one was really very interested. I pleaded just to get a review in the Toronto Star.

Eventually CityTV called me and invited me into their offices to discuss playing the movie on their show The New Music.

AU: I heard you lost the rights to The Last Pogo for a while?

Brunton: Yeah, I sold the rights to the movie for about 10 years. In 2005 I got

the rights back and realized how easy it is now to author and release a DVD on your own. After I produced the DVD's I started thinking, 'Hey, wouldn't it be fun if I could track down some of the people and bands that were in the film?'

AU: It must be hard to track down aging punks from 30 years ago!

Brunton: It is! I am still trying to track down a few of the old Toronto characters.



to find out all the insider information for *Absolute Underground*.

AU: Let's start by asking you about your connection with The 'Shoe?

Colin Brunton: I used to work for Gary Topp for a number of years. When they got the gig booking at the 'Shoe, he asked if I'd like to come along. I made handbills and just hung out but it was a great run of about nine months. Seven days a week I would get to see



AU: Like who?

Brunton: Well, there was this notorious guy named Mr. Shit. He was this chubby guy who would go to all the concerts and parties and cause trouble. I think he was one of the first around who would piss in an empty beer bottle and leave it lying around to see who might give it a try. There is also this woman called Ruby Tease who was extremely hard to track down. She is actually the girl in the movie who has her tit fall out of her top. There was also this gang of three or four guys called the Blake Street Boys who would go to a lot of Viletones shows and whatnot looking for fights.

AU: How did punk rock get its start in Toronto?

Brunton: One of the things I talk to people in my new movie about is trying to pin down how it all started in Toronto. In Toronto I would say for most people it all began when Iggy Pop played at the old Victory Burlesque Theater in the early 70s. Not

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AU: No shit!

Brunton: That following year (1976-78) seemed to be the peak of punk rock in Toronto. Things seemed to wrap up by then end of '78. Although The Last Pogo certainly wasn't the last punk show in Toronto, it really felt like the end of that first wave.

AU: So what can we look forward to at The Last Pogo -2008?

Brunton: We have most of the original members of all the bands that played the Last Pogo show back in '78. Just last week Cardboard Brains confirmed. The Scenics are playing, and The Forgotten Rebels are going to show up.

AU: They didn't play the Last Pogo back in 78!

No, but Mickey DeSadist was in the film bitching about how they were not on the bill. So, we decided after 30 years they finally deserved to play a Last Pogo show!

AU: Who else is going to be at this show?

The original line-up of The Mods will be there. Steven Leckie (the original punk in Toronto) has written new material just for that night and will be performing with a new line up. Then we top the night off with The Ugly who were at ground zero when punk hit the streets of Toronto.

AU: Are you hoping to overcrowd the bar and film another riot?

Brunton: I just think it would be so hilarious if things somehow got out of hand and the owners and/or police shut it down once again.

(*TheLastPogo.net*)





By Shawn Central

Hi there, and salut, tabernac from the beast in the east. Welcome to Montreal, the capitol of culture and scum.

Ok then, who's down for a healthy dose of repeated blunt object head trauma, and teeth tearing, gape-mouth blood flow bucket filling mayhem?! Cuz if you are, step right up and behold the ominous ferocity of the almighty ...And The Saga Continues.

These guys are, by far, one of most intense hardcore bands to come out of this poutine lacquered city! This band is what I believe to be one of the most straight up, in your face, hands down, best of the brutal... ATSC! Seriously, consider this: 49 songs. Before jumping to conclusions, it's not your standard 1-2-3-4 and stop type shit. Picture the speed and relentlessness of D.R.I., and the intense and quirky nuances in M.D.C's stylings. Along with a wicked and well produced LP recording, ATSC's latest vinyl-only release entitled *Making Enemies and Burning Bridges* can be found at most local underground music retailers (Myspace.com/andthesagacontinue).

Other bands that are up and coming or making a pungent dent in the scene are Preying Hands (ex-Ballast), Prevenge (members of Whiskey

Trench, ex-Hot Springs), Black Ships and Barn Burner, just to name a few. Perhaps this is not necessarily a new release, but fairly recent none the less, is Bionic's *Black Blood* (presently on local label heavies Signed By Force Records). This band delivers what some would consider an epic proportioned buffet of brutal riffs and carnage. Pick up your glass of turpentine and prepare yourself for some genuine rock and/or roll! Simply enough, if any of these bands happen to be passing through your town, be sure to check 'em out. Alternatively if you're in Montreal, check out if and when they're playing next.

Speaking of places to play, venues come and go. We bid adieu the Black Dot and christen new spots like the LBH (1981 Wellington) and the return of Underworld's (all-ages) music venue (251 St-Catherine E.). Other venues that you can expect good times and good tunes from are the Catacombes (1222 St-Laurent - corner of St-Catherine), Barfly (4062 St-Laurent) and of course the everlasting and legendary Foufounes Electriques (87 St-Catherine E.). Plenty of other venues are always happening but more importantly, are the particularly themed nights. For example on Tuesdays at Vinyl (2109 Bleury) you can get an earful of old school heavy metal and thrash spun by DJ Hoodlum (of newly crowned Thrash Kings, Metalian and Abyssed)

& Blastard (myspace.com/unleashthebeast2).

Another night to check out is Thursdays at the Green Room (5386 St-Laurent). Dj J.Cummings (of Bionic fame) spins on the wheels of steel. However, if this won't lure you in, how about this tempting offer: FREE BEER. That's right, to kick off the night, one full keg of beer is freely distributed to first thirsty minions who turn up to support the scene. Good sources for info are message boards such as Hardtimes.ca, Sizeemup.com and Stillepost.ca (scroll down for the Montreal

postings). Also, for the beat on the street, perhaps check out the many underground records shops such as Sonik (Myspace.com/sonikmontreal), Cheap Thrills (Cheapthrills.ca), L'Oblique (Myspace.com/loblique) and of course (a little shameless self promotion) Soundcentral (Soundcentralstore.com). There's truly a lot going on in Montreal these days. Whether it's the punk, metal, grind, psychobilly, HC or Rock scenes, all are strong and vibrant.



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ANGRY SNOWMANS

"SANTA IS A FATSO"

Interview w/ Ty "Ebenezer Booze"
Stranglehold, vocals

By Ira "Holidaze" Hunter

AU: Happy Birthday TYLER! Whooo! So you made carol books?

Ty: Yeah they are lyrics books for everyone today but Jono, the Abominable Bro-Man, isn't here.

AU: The Abominable Bro Man is man down.

Ty: The Abominable Bro Man got all Gung-Ho'ed last night in Van.

AU: Shows planned?

Ty: We've got Courtney on Dec 6th, Vancouver on the 20th and then Victoria on the 27th.

AU: What was the genesis of this band the Angry... is it just Snowmen?

Ty: That's not right, it's grammatically incorrect, it's Angry Snowmans. It's just a play on the band the Angry Samoans. Our first drummer Dustin came up with that one. Anyways, I'm obsessed with cover songs and I always have been. I have a deep love for Manic Hispanic, and I really wanted to be a part of that, alas I'm not Mexican at all and what am I gonna do? I needed to come up with a niche thing I could do and obviously the first one



was I'm a big fat guy, so we did Black Flab. But even before Black Flab I was dreaming of doing a Christmas band... taking classic punk tunes and Christmassize them!

AU: Is that like super-sized?

Ty: You know it! The years went by and every year I'd try to get it going and but it was always by the time you start thinking about Christmas it's too late to get the shit going and everyone's Man Down. So this year I started in March. Jono was still on board and I talked to Sarah 'cause she has always been there to help me out with bands.

AU: Do you guys all have special X-mas band names too?

Ty: We haven't got one for our new drummer Paul yet...

Sarah: I don't have one either.

Stranglehold: I thought you were Kandy Kane?

AU: That's the name of the stripper that lives below me.

(Laughter)

Sarah: Someone already has that name, damn it.

Ty: She could be Sarah Lou-Who.

AU: And who are you?

Ty: I'm Ebenezer Booze of course.

Drew: I'm Drewdolphe the Red Nosed Drain Beer.

Ty: And Jono is the Abominable Broman and Dustin when he was here was Jak Frost.



AU: Now we've gotta come up with Paul's name...

Paul: I don't know... come up with your own nickname... um... Deck the Paul's...?

Ty: DECK THE PAUL'S!!!

Paul: Hahaha... there you go, that was simple enough.

AU: So you take punk songs and modify them to be about X-Mas? Can you give us some examples?

Ty: Yeah changing the lyrics to be about Christmas... like the Adolescents song, "Kids Of The Black Hole" becomes "Elves Of The North Pole" and "Amoeba" becomes "Hanuka". Social Distortion's "Mommy's Little Monster" becomes "Naughty Little Monster". We got the Angry Samoans of course, where we took our name from, we've got "Santa is a Fatso" instead of "My Old Mans A Fatso" and also "Lights Up" instead of "Lights Out". Di's "Richard Hung Himself" becomes "Richard Hung His Sock", "Slave To My Dick" by the Subhumans is now "Slave To Saint Nick". "Last Caress" by the Misfits becomes "Last Christmas". A lot of Misfits in there. Black Flag's "Six Pack" is now "Eggnog".

AU: You came walking in with bells today, are you planning to perform in costume?

Ty: Definitely. I've picked up a stick of sleigh bells

'cause we'll definitely need that. Dustin Jak Frost is drawing some colours for the back of my Santa suit vest. I think Sarah's on the elf ear tip and Drew is gonna paint his head white and draw black charcoal snowman eyes on.

AU: Will there be any snowball fights at your shows?

Ty: You know it's funny, I was at the Santa Claus parade last night and one of the floats had a snow machine. If we could hook up a snow machine in Logan's and have at 'er with a snow machine. Oh Man!

AU: Who would win in a fight between the Angry Snowmans and the Frostbacks?

Ty: Well look at this way, they may have harpoons and whale gaffs but you can suck a candy cane into a pretty sharp point.

AU: Candy shank!

Ty: Hahaha, candy shiv! If you're naughty you're fucked!

AU: Why are you so angry?

Ty: Didn't get what I wanted for Christmas. A Snowmans gotta be angry cause no matter what you're melting in the spring, man.

AU: Do you believe in Santa Claus?

Ty: More so than Jesus.

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- 3) **Don't fuck with security:** Don't steal. Don't vandalize. Security will tell the cops it was the guy dressed like Santa. And that's all of us.
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FROSTBACKS



Bear Skin Punk

Interview w/ Harley Mowat, vocals and Chilly Willy, guitar

From the frozen tundra of North-Western Canada, comes the Frostbacks.

AU: What are Frostbacks all about?

Harley: Frostbacks are about Canada, that's all there is to it. We sing about what we know, and all we know is Canada.

AU: So that's mostly seal clubbing and beer drinking?

Harley: Well I don't want you to put words in my mouth, but if a seal needs to be clubbed then that's all there is to it, and if there's a beer that needs to be drank, well yeah, we'll drink it.

AU: Does it get a little hot on stage wearing the toques and parkas?

Harley: No, we're used to it. Its everyday Canadian life, and whether you're inside or outside, it doesn't mean a goddamn thing.

AU: Are you guys like a Christmas band?

Willy: No we have Fuck all to do with Christmas. In fact I'm sure pretty sure everyone in the band hates Christmas. The Frostbacks are a Canadian punk rock band. Sometimes Americans call Canadians "Frostbacks" just like they call Mexicans "Wetbacks".

AU: What happened with the gaff on stage when you tripped over the beer cooler?

Harley: The gaff, it stabbed me and I bled all over the place, no big deal. I went to the hospital, they just fucking slapped me on the ass and told me to hit the road. That's Canadian health care.

AU: Tell us about some of the Frostbacks songs.

Willy: We just recorded a CD with Scott Henderson. We did 14 songs that will hopefully be out soon on Beer Belly Records. One of them is an instrumental surf number and its called Whiteout. One of them is a Forgotten Rebels tune, they're like our favourite Canadian band. Instead of "Bomb the Boats, Feed the Fish" it's "Club the Seals, Oust the Britt". Another song we stole off of SCTV. There's one from the movie Hard Core Logo, instead of "Blue Tattoo"

our song is called "Blue Ski-Doo".

AU: That's hilarious. So you do some twisted cover songs and some originals?

Willy: We're kinda like Weird Al and Manic Hispanic but with a Canadian angle. We never do a straight cover, you know, eh?

AU: Tell me more about some of the song names for your originals.

Harley: We got a song called the "Hot Month", because we only have one of them up here at year, eh. Another one is "Give Your Toque A Spin". That's about Americans coming up here to Victoria thinking it's the beautiful coast, they didn't realize that it's actually cold up here. They got the khaki shorts on and their fucking sock holders. I like to see them shiver and shake. Fucking Yankees, they suck.

AU: Any more songs you want to mention?

Harley: "Taking Back Maine". Thats about the state of Maine, how it intrudes on our country and when I become Prime Minister I'm going to fucking take back half of that state. I am sick and tired of driving all the way around it, it's fucking bullshit.

AU: What about the fact that Victoria lies below the 49th parallel?

Harley: This is fucking our land. If they want to fight about it, come on up man, but leave your guns at home, Yanks.

AU: So what shows do you have coming up?

Willy: We got a New Years show at the Cobalt with the Dayglo Abortions and that's about it. We've been trying not to overplay. We've only played in our hometown of Victoria twice, eh. We

played a couple in Alberta but we don't want to overplay 50 shows like the Hoosegow.

AU: Do you guys have funny band names?

Willy: We fool around with it sometimes but everyone always just wants to beat each other up.

AU: Give some examples.

Willy: We call our drummer Blark (Blind Mark) - Blind Nanook, he was blinded in a moonshine snowmobile accident. Merlin we call him Merlin Mercury but we also call him the man with the Golden Parka, because he's got this pimp parka that he spent like five grand on or something. The rest of bought like Zellers parkas or whatever. They call me Chilly Willy. Here is the one that is going to get me beat up by our singer Harley. We always call him Barley like in the beer but then it turned into Barley Mowat.

AU: Like Farley Mowat?

Willy: Yeah or we call him Harley Mowat but you might not want to print that or he might want to fuckin' duke me out. He was a golden gloves boxer you know.

AU: I know his weakness. It's seal gaffs.

Willy: (laughs) Yeah exactly.

AU: That's it in the band? Isn't there one more guy?

Willy: Oh yeah, Johnny, we call him Johnny Canuck or we call him Johnny Moose Call sometimes.

AU: What sets the Frostbacks apart from other bands?

Willy: We used to have a banner that was a big Canadian flag that said Frostbacks on it. But then we lost it and didn't have a banner so we scored this giant black bear skin rug and we painted Frostbacks on it.



AU: Who would win in a fight between the Frostbacks and the Angry Snowmans? My money's on you guys because you have fish gaffs and seal clubs.

Harley: Are you fucking kidding me? I've got 2 fists, I don't need no fucking gaff.

AU: Tell me a story about the mis-adventures of your blind drummer Blark.

Willy: Funny shit is always happening to Blark. One time he passed out in Edmonton and they drew all over him and then popped him on a plane home. He was sitting next to this girl the whole way and talking her up all covered in jiffy marker. Cocks and big swastikas all over his face.

AU: Final words:

Blark: We're all about keeping our music Canadian. Keeping Canada alive and playing songs about beer drinking, bacon eating, squaw banging, seal clubbing, and eskimo pies.

Harley: Take off, eh.

(MySpace.com/frostbacks)

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Sat 27th-Punk Rock X-Mas!-The Angry Snowmen-8\$

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BRING A SHOVEL

By Ira Hunter

AU: Who are you and who else is in the band?

Elliot: I'm Elliot (vocalist). There is Chris at the guitar, Dennis at the bass and Justin on drums.

We are all from the west island of Montreal, Quebec.

AU: Do you believe in Santa Claus or Satan Claws?

Elliot: Both.

AU: Getting started did you draw inspiration more from local bands, or bigger names?

Elliot: I would say both. Cryptopsy were a huge influence when we were younger. There was also bands from the US like Suffocation, Dying Fetus, etc. But we've always been influenced by different kind of music, not only death metal.

AU: Are you guys huge Montreal Canadiens fans?

Elliot: We always like to watch the games when we're on tour. Once, we were playing in Toronto and the Maple Leafs were playing against the Canadiens. We sat at the bar with a bunch of the Leafs supporters and watched the Canadiens beat their asses...

AU: Do hockey and metal go hand in hand?

Elliot: Hockey goes hand in hand with everything. Come on...

AU: What is the focus of most of the bands lyrical content?

Elliot: Most of the lyrics are about modern social problems. We talk a lot about poverty and the ever growing gap between the rich and the poor.

AU: You're described as a hardcore influenced brutal/technical death metal on Wikipedia. Do you agree?

Elliot: I don't know. Yeah maybe. I really don't like labels and always had problems putting one on music in general and even harder when it comes to us. I must say that we are influenced by hardcore but we're also influenced by underground hip hop, punk rock etc. I think it helps people to put a label on every band but in the end its

just music and every band has or should have their own particular sound.

AU: How would you describe the current Montreal metal scene. Is it still going strong as ever?

Elliot: I don't know. I have not been in Montreal for the last two years, hahaha. No but seriously, so many great bands are from Montreal; Neuraxis, Cryptopsy, Despised Icon, Ion Dissonance, Martyr, The last Felony, the Plasmari... there are just so many. So yeah, I think all these bands could not have made it if there would not have been an awesome crowd to support them. As for us, the last few shows we had in Montreal were amazing.

AU: What band would you most be stoked to play with?

Elliot: We honestly played with pretty much all the bands we wanted to. But of course there is another long list of bands we would love to tour with and the band on top of the list would have to be Meshuggah.

AU: Tell us about your latest release *Dystopia*, on Prosthetic Records.

Elliot: *Dystopia* is the result of almost two years of writing music on the road while we were promoting our first Prosthetic release. We wanted the new album to be as extreme as possible, while

remaining easily listenable. It wasn't an easy task. We worked hard on the songs so that they'll be catchy even if it's really technical. We're all very stoked by the results of it and very proud of the new album. Simply said, *Dystopia* is the best thing we ever did.

AU: Any upcoming tour plans? When will you be in western Canada next?

Elliot: I think we're going back west in the summer of 09 as part of the Canadian Summer Slaughter or at least that was the plan. I hope it still works out because we had a blast last year!

AU: Where will the band be for Christmas this year? Any festivities planned?

Elliot: After four months of touring, the band will finally be home! I can't even believe it. We have a lot of plans most of them are partying with friends that we haven't seen in a long time. We also talked of making a Christmas BBQ at the Bradley's place, and one at our friends from Fuck the Facts. So yeah, looking



forward to take a break from touring.

AU: Last Rites?

Elliot: I want to thank all our Canadian fans for their unbelievable support! And tell everyone to go to their record store and order *Dystopia*!

(Myspace.com/btm, Beneaththemassacre.com)



INTERVIEW W/ MR. OX., BASS



Lordi are like the Russel Brand of metal music – it's hard to tell if they're taking the piss or just seriously don't know any better. But whether you're willing to look over the fact that it probably takes them each 12 hours in make-up to prep for a show, you can't deny the power of lyrics like: "Would you love a monster man, could you understand beauty of the beast." Or the equally soulful, "Who's your daddy, bitch, who's your daddy?"

Surrender and obey..." Pow pow! Puttin' women

in their place in platforms no less! During a quick innerview with Mr. Ox, we find out what's in store for this black glitter maelstrom that hit the stage this year at both Ozzfest and Wacken.

AU: Greeting Bringers of the Arockalypse. What realm do you hail from? What's it like there?

Mr. Ox: It's dirty and it smells like cognac here..

AU: Where did the original concept for Lordi come from?

Ox: It was Mr. Lordi's idea way back in 1992, I think. He's a huge fan of Kiss and horror movies. So he decided to combine those two together and create a band that he would like to see on stage. I guess that was pretty much it.

AU: Who is currently in the band?

Ox: It's me, OX, on bass, Amen on guitar, Awa on keyboards, Kita on drums and Mr. Lordi is screaming his ass off!

AU: What inspired the costumed theatics?

Ox: Pretty much Kiss, Alice Cooper and horror movies.

AU: Did King Diamond being from near-by Denmark have anything to do with it?

Ox: I know that Mr. Lordi is a big fan of King Diamond, but if they had anything to do with this? I doubt it, but I don't really know. You should ask Mr. Lordi about this...

AU: I'm assuming there was nothing even remotely like Lordi in Finland before.

Ox: You're right. There was nothing like Lordi before Lordi.

AU: What is the theme of most your songs? What are your songs about?



Ox: In my opinion they are usually horror stories or kinda like rock'n'roll anthems. In this new album, *Deadache*, the lyrics are darker and more brutal than before. And oh yeah, very often they are about bad girls too, like for example, "Girls Go Chopping" and "Man Skin Boots". Those two are actually my favourite songs on the new album.

AU: What sort of Stage Antics can be expected at a Lordi show?

Ox: For example, on this new tour we're about to start, we're gonna do an autopsy on stage. So there's gonna be a lot of horror stuff like that, and of course the pyros, bombs and fire. And then there's the five monsters on stage. So there's a lot to see.

AU: What was the response like from North American audiences when you toured last year with Ozzfest?

Ox: Great! We're forever thankful that we got to do Ozzfest. The American crowd was amazing! It was our first tour in America, and I think you can't really start better than that! When we came back and opened for Type O Negative, we found out that we had a lot of fanatic fans who had tattooed our logo or band's name on their skin. And some were going to tattoo our autographs too. What an honour!

AU: Any plans to ever tour with GWAR. Who would be the victor in a head to head battle for supremacy?

Ox: No plans, but why not? Of course we would be victorious!

AU: Is Gene Simmons aware you stole his boots?

Ox: No, but don't tell him. We could never afford them!

AU: You played the final night of Wacken this year at like three in the morning in front of like 80,000 people. Describe that experience.

Ox: Amazing! The crowd was still there for us, even though it was raining like hell! I can't even describe the feeling when you can't see where the crowd ends (of course it was dark too, but that's not the reason!) and they're all insane. That's the best thing!

AU: Also at Wacken, Udo Dirkschneider, the German Tank, made a special appearance during your set. How did that come about. What song did you perform?

Ox: We were honoured to have him on stage with us, the second time already. First time was in Cologne, in Germany, when we were doing our European tour after the *Arockalypse* album. We did the song "They Only Come Out At Night", and Udo is also singing on our previous album in that same song as a very special guest. He's such a great guy and we've all become friends with him and his family. That's so great.

AU: Anything in the works as far as a new album? New song titles you can share?

Ox: Yes, the new album *Deadache* is coming out around Halloween. It's gonna be released in Canada on 28th of october by The End Records. I think I mentioned few titles already, but I'll mention couple more: The Ghosts Of The Heceta Head, Evelyn, Raise Hell In Heaven, Missing Miss Charlene...

AU: Any plans to tour Canada anytime soon?

Ox: Hopefully soon. I've been wanting to come to Canada so long... There's no dates yet, but we're doing our best trying to finally get there.

(Lordi.fi)



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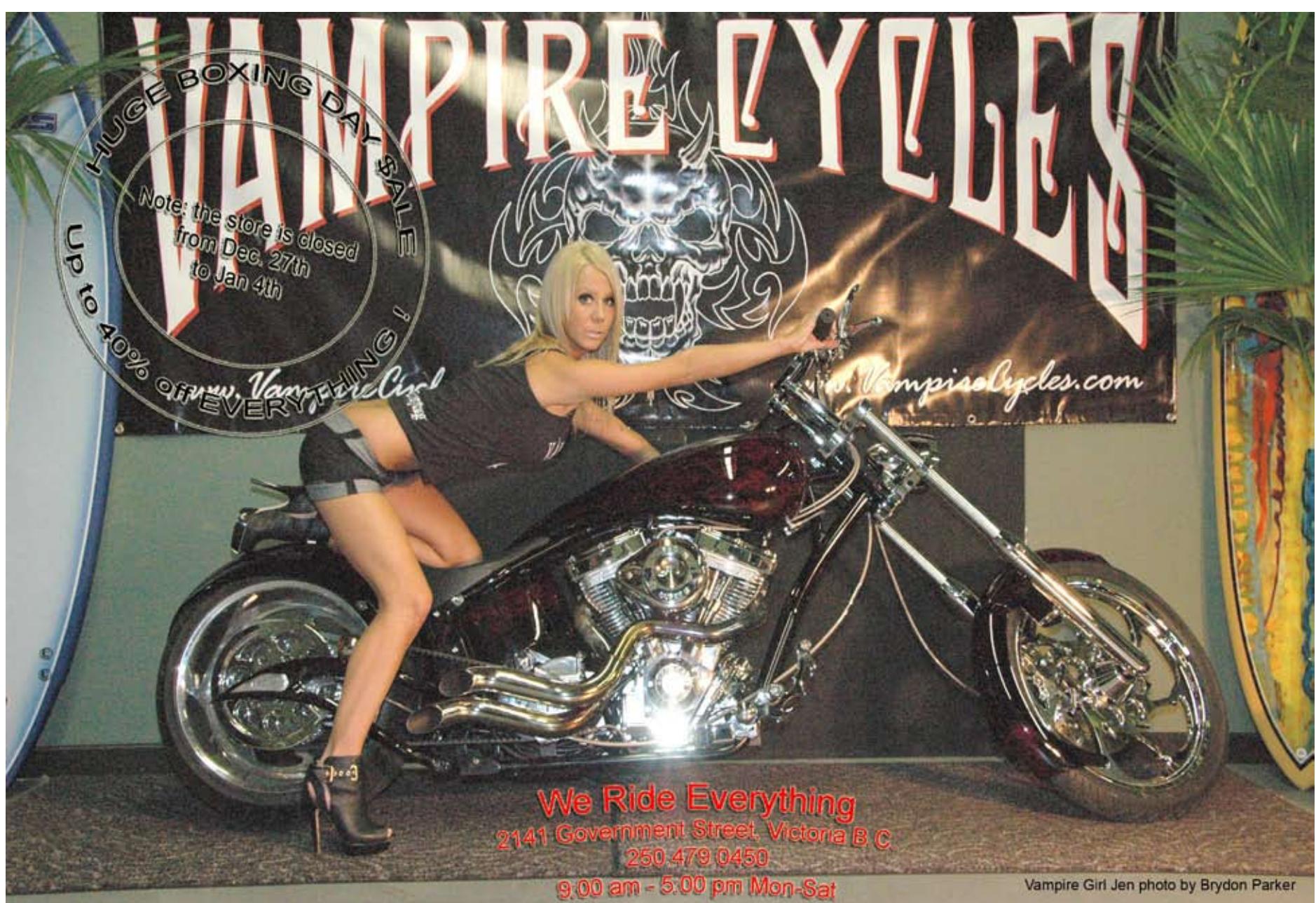
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UNEARTH

"Buz McGrath Marches to His Altar"

With the release of the new album *The March* and a full-length documentary/live DVD stemming out last year's performance in Pomona, California (*Alive from the Apocalypse*) UNEARTH have established themselves as leaders of American metal. They've toured far and wide, and currently heading across Europe with Parkway Drive, Despised Icon, Protest The Hero and Whitechapel on a massive blitz. Now recovered from seeing Iron Maiden at Wacken Open Air, guitarist Buz Mc Grath tells us of the themes behind the new album, his zombie catastrophe plans and innovative costume ideas. All bear witness to the gathering of the march.

AU: Hello Buz! Where are you at right now? Where I am talking to you from?

Buz McGrath: We are in beautiful, historic Charleston, South Carolina.

AU: And what is happening there?

McGrath: We are at a signing in a record store. We are getting ready to head to Dansville, Virginia. It's a new area that bands are hitting and that is exciting.

AU: And speaking of playing... you have the new album out, *The March*. What are you marching towards? What is the march?

McGrath: (Serious voice) It's a journey of epic proportions. Marching down a trail paved with skulls, at the end of which there is an altar, surrounded by lava, and on this altar I will perform the greatest guitar solo ever. [Laughs] I guess the lyrical theme for *The March* is that the good side of humanity will prevail over the evils in world that try to restrict our freedoms and keep a brother down.

AU: This is a worthy thematic topic given the upcoming US election! We saw you at Wacken in Germany... it was an amazing performance as the rain started to come down and you got great energy from the crowd. What was your Wacken experience, what did you take away from the festival?

McGrath: That was a great time. We've always wanted to play it, since we formed the band. So we were very psyched to be on the main stage. I got there the night before, just in time to catch Iron Maiden – who I had never seen before – and I was sitting there

watching them and I was way back. I thought "this is not the way I want to see Iron Maiden for the first time, I should get up front". So I fought my way up front, through 70,000 people, and I got there and realized it was a terrible idea

and I wanted to get out immediately! It was friggin' hectic in there. It was a great experience – something special went down that day for us.

AU: When people hear your music they want to kick people.

Who do you want to kick at this point in time?

McGrath: I'm pretty chill. We write angry music because we like to see people mosh. We like to get a reaction. The best way to do that is write fast, hard riffs and get people to let out their aggression. Heavy metal is a very youthful music. People stay young when they hear fast stuff. They get their aggressions out through it. I've never wanted to be a hard dude and write hard riffs just to flex my muscles and go, "I'm so pissed! I've gotta write the hard riffs!" These are just the riffs I want to hear.

AU: Good to know. Could you say there is any band out there right now that you are digging that we should hear about, that is under the radar?

McGrath: A band called Daath, a technical metal band from the Atlanta region. Great guitar work, awesome band. We toured with them in Europe a while ago, they've lost their singer but are getting ramped up again. I'll give them a plug for sure.

AU: Some of your music (*The Oncoming Storm*, in particular) is tackling shit-hits-the-fans type scenarios and I'm wondering whether you are actively preparing for this type of thing. Do you have a secret arms cache that we can't talk about? Or a tent? A 4 x 4?

McGrath: You know, I think about that all the time. What would I do, you know? My plan is right now, my backyard goes into woods, and there is a huge water tower in the distance. So me and my wife will go climb the water tower and have all the water. People can come to us and we can decide whether to give them water. Also, we will be high up, so it will be a good vantage point.

AU: It sounds like *Mad Max*... "Who controls Bartertown?" "Masterblaster controls Bartertown"...

McGrath: We'll run Bartertown!

AU: As far as the coming cold months, are you coming through Vancouver or any western Canadian dates?

AMERICAN IMPORT

McGrath: There is a tour we are doing in January, and I don't know about western Canada, but we're hitting Ottawa and Quebec. I think we will be in western Canada in April.

AU: Any parting words for Canadian society?

McGrath: Pick up our new record hoser, drink the strange brew! (www.myspace.com/unearth)

-Erik Lindholm



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CHEECH MARTIN LIGHT UP CANADA

by Ira "Hemp Island" Hunter

AU: Hey, is this Cheech?

Cheech Marin: This is Cheech.

AU: Hey man, I'm calling from **Absolute Underground** in Canada.

Cheech: Oh, hey cool.

AU: Am I right on time?

Cheech: You're right on time actually.

AU: I'm not on Mexican time?

Cheech: Hahaha.

AU: What's going on today, man?

Cheech: You know man, just chillin' here, got a day off and I'm making the most of it.

AU: You puffin on some cheeba?

Cheech: Haha... yeah...

AU: Hell yeah!

Cheech: ...maybe.

AU: Sweet man. So you're back together with Chong and you guys are doing a show called Light up Canada.

Cheech: Yeah Light up Canada tour, eh.

AU: Is that because you guys originally are started hanging out in Canada?

Cheech: Yeah, Tommy's Canadian and I used to live in Canada. We met in Vancouver. So, we always feel like we are coming home when we come back to Canada.

AU: Is it true you used to write underground music reviews?

Cheech: There was a magazine called *Poppin* in Vancouver. It around 69-70.

AU: So what kinda of bands were happening in Vancouver then?

Cheech: There was a band called the Jangles, they were really big. Another big one was Chilliwack.

AU: So what were you doing? Getting

interviews and going to shows?

Cheech: Getting free records mostly.

AU: Perfect. How did you become a comedian?

Cheech: Well, I wanted a job that payed more, and the job that Tommy offered me writing for this improv group he had payed \$5 more than delivering carpets. Plus you got to hang out with naked chicks smoking dope.

AU: How do naked chicks and improv comedy go together?

Cheech: Very well. We first started off in a topless bar that Tommy's parents owned in Vancouver and so he made a topless improv show. I joined that and from there was born Cheech and Chong.

AU: That was a no-brainer to join, eh?

Cheech: Yeah baby.

AU: Do you know if that porn theater is still around? What was it called?

Cheech: No actually its been pulled down, right on the corner of Main and Pender in Van. It was called the Shanghai Junk for many years. Yeah it was some fun, I mean we had more fun than you could imagine.

AU: Did you convince Chong to go to Los Angeles?

Cheech: No, he kinda convinced me. I mean the more we talked about it we knew that if we wanted to make it we had to go to New York or L.A., I was from L.A. and I knew people and it was

cold in NY so that was kind of a no-brainer too.

AU: And they had better weed down in California.

Cheech: Yeah, but I don't know about now?

AU: You like the BC bud better?

Cheech: Yeah.

AU: Have you seen the show *Trailer Park Boys*?

Cheech: Who are they?

AU: A bunch of drunk, stoned Canadians who live in a trailer park and grow dope. It's like the biggest show in Canada.

Cheech: Alright, I'll check it out on your recommendation.

AU: So, the very first movie, was that like a dream come true?

Cheech: Yeah it was a good movie and we had a good time doing it. We had been doing records and concerts for so long, and being very popular in that, the next logical step was movies. So it took a long time to get to it but when we did it was a big hit.

AU: I guess the first time trying to get a record deal, just two pot smokers, must not have been the easiest thing.

Cheech: No, actually it was. The first actually record guy we talked to was Lou Adler, who saw our act at the Troubadour and he says "Hey ya want to make a record?" We go "Well we never thought about it but sure sounds good to us," and that's what we did.

AU: Did it kind of take off in the underground at the start?

Cheech: Oh yeah, it was. FM radio was really big then and it took off.

AU: What was your favourite of the Cheech and Chong movies?

Cheech: You always got to like *Up In Smoke*, but all of them had something I really loved. It's like choosing among your children.

AU: When you guys smoked weed in the old movies was it real?

Cheech: Nah, it was stunt dope.

AU: Were you disappointed that you had to smoke stunt dope?

Cheech: No, cause we had to work all day. We never used to smoke dope when we worked. When we were making records or on stage or making movies it's just too hard to keep your concentration all day.

AU: So Chong would just tighten his headband and you would wear your toque real tight and kill a few brain cells?

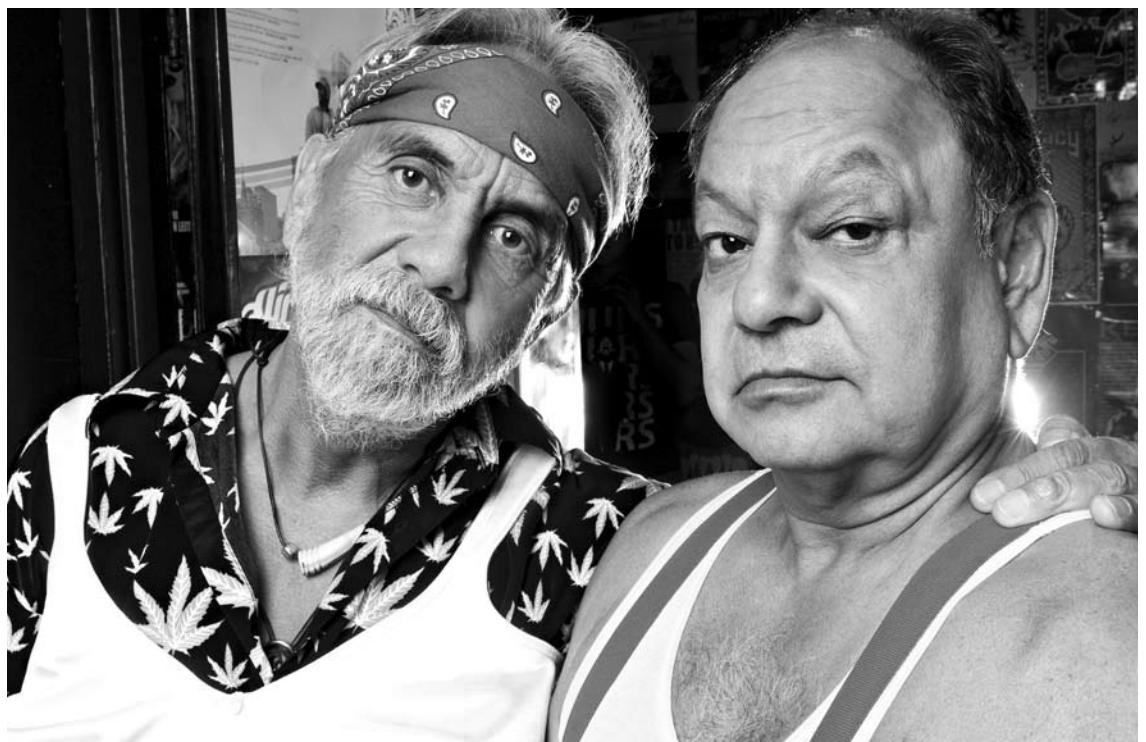
Cheech: That's what is was.

AU: Do you still puff?

Cheech: Every once in a while, yeah. When I need to, when the lord tells me to.

AU: What brought you guys back together for this tour?

Cheech: We decided if we were ever going to do it, then we better do it now before we croak. We were going to call it the Catch 'Em Before They Croak tour.



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Tommy

Time

interview by Iree-I

AU: Hey Tommy, it's Absolute Underground calling.

Tommy Chong: How is the underground doing?

AU: Pretty good.

AU: Did you guys started off in the underground then suddenly become the next big thing?

Chong: Sure did. It's like the spotlight shines on everything for a minute then it moves on, that's what happens.

AU: What are you up to today?

Chong: I'm on the roof of my house, I have a flat roof and I'm laying in the sun. I'm acting like an old lizard.

I'm down in California. It's beautiful here, it's about 70 degrees.

AU: Well I'm up in Canada.

Chong: That's why I moved as soon as I got old enough to read temperatures.

AU: You puffing on some sweets skunks today?

Chong: No, not today. I'm on a sabbatical. I'm going to lay off it until I finish the tour then I'm going to celebrate.

AU: Did you guys smoke real weed when making the movies?

Chong: Always.

AU: Always?

Chong: Always. Not only real, but the best. Always smoked the best.

AU: Cheech said it was stunt dope.

TC: Any kind of dope, when you are out of it, is the best dope. If that's all you got to smoke then yeah it becomes the best. I smoked a jar of leafs one time. Some leafs, you know crumbled em up and smoked them. It wasn't much of a buzz but it was just the thought and holding my breath that helped.

AU: So you guys are back together, tell me about the show Cheech and Chong Light Up Canada!

Chong: It's sort of like a greatest hits show, we've taken some of the best of Cheech and Chong from over the years and we put it into a show. We were a stage act before we were anything so we went right back to the old stage acts. We've added in some music and some dancing with my wife Shelby, who opens the show, and it's really a lot of fun.

AU: Is it true you have a place in Vancouver?

Chong: I had a place in Qualicum, but not anymore. Now, we're right on the

Tommy

Time

water in West Vancouver with a little path through an enchanted old growth forest.

AU: When you come to Vancouver what do you do? Do you visit Marc Emery?

Chong: A little bit. I'm really a beach comber. I roam the beach and look for interesting rocks and interesting shells, I love the beach. I am originally from Alberta so I am still fascinated with the beach.

AU: When did you get the spark to become a comedian?

Chong: Well Cheech and I met up in Vancouver and I had a topless bar there. I had a topless improvisational theater group. Cheech joined this and when the group broke up, Cheech and I just stayed together and that's when I became a comedian. Then Cheech and I decided to come down to LA and make it big, hit the big time. I had been with Mo-Town the year earlier in Detroit, we recorded a record and I kinda knew the process of how to become a star.

AU: At that time, did they have better weed in California?

Chong: Mexico actually. That was the only weed there was. It came from Mexico and it also came from Vietnam, and Thailand.

AU: Not like today, I guess?

Chong: Not at all. Very few growers until Humboldt County started making a name for its self and then all of a sudden it exploded. Right now BC Bud is considered one of the best in the world.

AU: Good outdoor in the California sun?

Chong: Yeah, they never had hydroponics then.

AU: Have you seen the Trailer Park Boys show?

Chong: Yeah, they came and seen me when we played Nova Scotia and the Trailer Park Boys came and sat right in the front row.

AU: Did you puff any with them?

Chong: We talked to them after the show. I wasn't smoking then either so we never smoked up. When you have to cross the border it's not very wise to bring anything with you, they have a tendency to frown on that kind of activity.

AU: And you are kind of a Heat-Score. They kind of know who you are.

Chong: Yeah.

AU: I read your book The I Chong: Meditations from the Joint and in it you said you weren't going to smoke weed again until they changed the current drug laws. Is that still in effect?

Chong: Well actually I started smoking, I was celebrating my freedom. I was just joking when I said that, I had my fingers crossed.

AU: Thank god we were worried! How would you sum up the I Chong?

Chong: Well the I Chong is a little diary of what went on when I was in jail. I collected stories, I acted like a journalist when I was in jail.

AU: Interesting, did you come out with a new philosophy?

Chong: Not so much a new philosophy, but I reconnected with my original philosophy which was really peace, love and dope, you know?

AU: If everyone smoked a joint and listened to Bob Marley for breakfast...

Chong: There would be no wars, no wars at all.

AU: Your second book Cheech and Chong: the Unauthorized Biography. We're just curious, if you wrote it, why is it unauthorized?

Chong: It's called Cheech and Chong, Cheech did not authorize it. I wanted to clear myself just in case I told stories out of line.

AU: You can only tell half the story right?

Chong: Yeah that's right, I mean Cheech still has his story to tell too but it was a good experience. I love the fact that I am a writer, it's a very honoured profession.

AU: I met you at a book signing in Victoria and I gave you a green comic book called Hemp Island.

Chong: Right, right, that's your book? Yeah I remember that. I've still got it. I've got a big collection of stuff like that. I want to do a stoner museum one day.

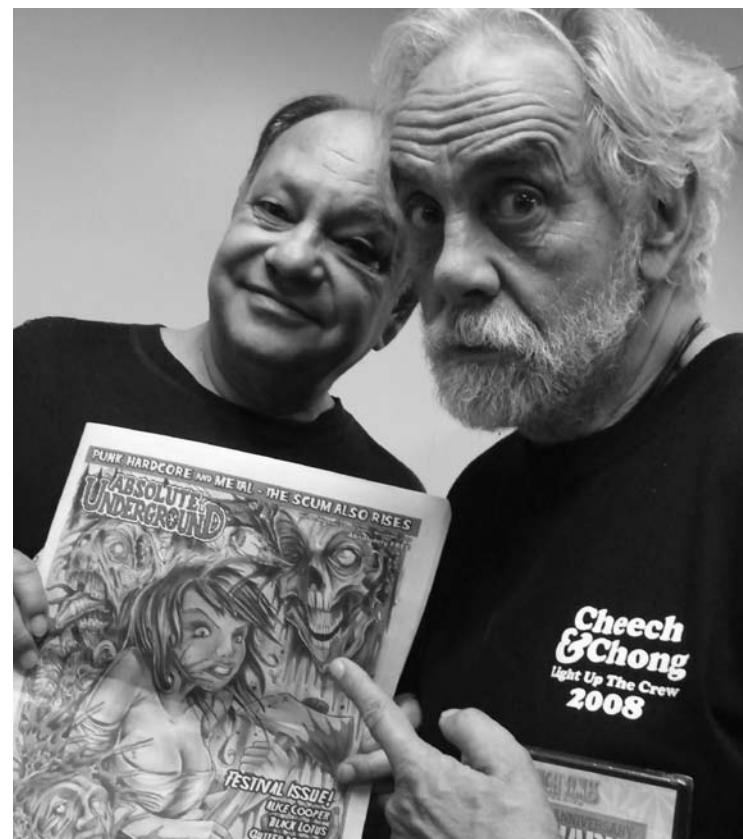
AU: If I write the Hemp Island screenplay, would you consider taking a role as Leader of the Tribal Herbsmen who live in the weed village?

Chong: I would consider anything, I always do. But I can tell you right now that Cheech and I have our dance cards booked for the next 5 years.

AU: Really, 5 years?

TC: Well the reunion, and we are getting inundated with offers from television programs, movie companies, record companies, they're all coming around.

AU: There was talk about a new Cheech and Chong movie a while



back.

Chong: Well Rae Dawn and Robbi, both my daughters, tried to do a Cheech and Chong movie but then I got put in jail and that kind of stopped that momentum.

AU: Concerning Potitics, do you think things going to change?

Chong: Oh yeah, they're going to change, they have to change. I think pot laws will fall and I'm very hopeful that within the next 8 years that we will have a total change in pot policy.

AU: What would your superhero name be?

Chong: Pot-Man!

AU: Ok Pot-Man, what is the best weed you've ever smoked?

Chong: I'll have to give it Hawaii. Yeah I smoked one of the nicest, ok let me think, that's a good question. I have to be very careful with my answer because there is some really, really delicious herb out there now. Tucson, Arizona had some incredible stuff, BC bud of course, and umm let me think, the most incredible? I'll stay with Hawaii. Hawaii had some stuff, I laid down, I was doing a concert and I laid down beside the stage in the elephant grass and people couldn't find me and I couldn't get up. I could hear them looking for me but I couldn't get up.

AU: Have you ever been a judge at the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam?

Chong: I've been asked many times but no. Me, I'm a lousy judge because once

I get high I got no judging abilities left.

AU: Are people encouraged to spark up at your shows?

Chong: Well they find a way to do it. Little one hitters, there is always a way to do it. Our show comes in smell-a-vision.

AU: Could you be a guest for Absolute Underground's Weed Olympics?

Chong: Well, I can't do it. But I can definitely get Cheech to do it.

AU: Is Cheech more of a connoisseur?

Chong: Well between him, and my wife, and myself, he is the only one who is smoking right now. So he is getting all the perks, all the freebies go to him.

AU: You probably get quite a few freebies, eh?

Chong: I could do 12 years in jail for the kind of freebies I get.

AU: Did they call you the Squirrel Master while you were in jail like in Half Baked?

Chong: No, but as a matter of fact I made friends with the ground squirrels. I had one trained to crawl up my leg.

AU: No way!

Chong: Yeah it was kind of ironic.

AU: This is crazy man, best interview I've ever done.

Chong: OK, brother.

AU: Thanks, Tommy.

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Interview w/ Nick Cates, bass

By Krissi-Steele

These sweaty leaders of the Goatrider's Horde continue fighting the war to bring this music to the yearning masses. Over 300 Metal heads came from all over the Island to feel the sting of the hot blade across their throats.

AU: How is the Fire Up the Blades tour going?

Nick Cates: Good. We are stoked to have 3IOB be the reason we get to live this glamorous lifestyle. (Nick looks around the empty VIP room and laughs).

AU: How is it with the last

original member, Jamie Hooper/vocals, on hiatus?

Cates: Jamie will be back! We're holding strong to the backbone of this band by respecting those who came before us.

AU: Have metal labels affected how fans see this band?

Cates: Some call us fuckin' metalcore. 3IOB is like a combination of black metal, power metal and British metal.

AU: Who influences the sound of the new album?

Cates: I think that Fire Up the Blades has influences from pre-1985 heavy metal groups

like War Hammer, Judas Priest, Annihilator, Iron Maiden, Deep Purple and Megadeth.

AU: The pounding of the two kick drums felt like we might head out to battle after the set.

Cates: Ash Pearson is our new kick-ass drummer; he is a part of the B.C. heavy music scene. I think he used to kick pedals for Sound of the Swarm? Check Wikipedia, on that.

AU: Is the 3IOB Wikipedia page accurate?

Cates: Hell, no! Half the shit you reporters write isn't accurate either, just a little more interesting, I guess.

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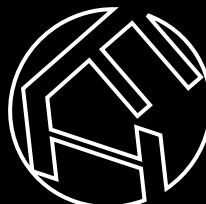
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THE BEST OF 2008



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Cam Pipes, singer of 3 Inches of Blood.

Favourite band?

Old: Iron Maiden. New: Bison B.C.

Best punk band of the year:

The Night Marchers.

Best hardcore band of the year:

Kingdom of Sorrow.

Best metal band of the year:

Toxic Holocaust.

Best punk album of the year:

The Night Marchers - *See You in Magic*.

Best hardcore album of the year:

Kingdom of Sorrow - "s/t".

Best metal album of the year:

Bison B.C. - *Quiet Earth*.

Shittiest album of the year (any genre):

Trivium - *Shogun*.

Favourite live show of the year:

Ace Frehley, at the Commodore in Vancouver.

Best movie of the year:

Hellboy 2.

Best horror movie of the year:

My Name Is Bruce.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Bison B.C.

Best tattooist you know:

Yetti Payne, Electric Dragonland tattoo (Hopkins, MN).

Best skater you know:

Me... in 1987.

Best event/party of the year:

Heavy MTL festival in Montreal, June 08.

Shock of the Year:

Realizing I couldn't think of anything that shocked me this year.

Douche of the Year:

Chad Kroger.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

It's put together well, and it's a welcome change to that defunct piece of garbage known as *The Nerve*.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Wendythirteen Purveyor of Cobalt

Hardcore.

Favourite local band that everyone should know about:

Still... Deadriver Wasteland.

Best punk or hardcore band:

Exploited

Best metal band on the planet:

Bathory...RIP Quorthon

Best metal album of the year:

BISON BC Kills... Mapee did the cover and they're bros, very proud of them.

Best live show of the year:

Dayglos / SNFU on my birthday at the Cobalt... holy fucking insanity... good thing I only celebrate every few years.

Best horror movie of the year:

ZEITGEIST.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Metal - Troll Band has potential. Punk - Fear of Tomorrow.

Best skater you know:

That would be Seb

Best event/party of the year:

So many wicked shows... Origin stands out. Dismember and Impaled, jaw dropping metal. Subhumans and Unwanted shows were epic and I also love Malhavoc profusely.

Shock [but not to me - I wont give up] of the year:

That despite window smashing assholes, spineless cop calling idiots, and a rumour ridden apathetic public... The Cobalt still perseveres! Up the D.I.Y. spirit... on with the new. **Douche of the year:**

This Exorcist Septembre bitch who called the cops on me for taking her illicit beer away in the cobalt tunnel... what a fucking idiot!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Wicked Rag!!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

My name is Jovanka Vuckovic, I'm the Editor-in-Chief of a horror magazine called *Rue Morgue*.

Favourite local band that everyone should know about:

Redeemer. They're pure fucking metal: www.myspace.com/redeemer.

Best metal album of the year:

Testament's *The Formation of Damnation*.

Best live show of the year:

Behemoth.

Best horror movie of the year:

Let The Right One In (Sweden).

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Redeemer.

Best tattooist you know:

DeNToR: Wartime Psychologist to

Shane Faulkner at King of Fools Custom Tattoos (Toronto).

Best event/party of the year:

The Rue Morgue Festival of Fear!

Douche of the year:

Sarah Palin. She's a national embarrassment as well as a mindless goon.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Absolute Underground is a kick ass, punk, hardcore and metal zine; offensive and in-your-face, the way it oughta be.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Chris Walter and I'm best known for stealing your beer when you weren't looking. I also write those crappy books you use to line the kitty box.

Favourite local band?

The old guy by the bridge who sings out of key and sometimes pisses himself.

Best metal album of the year:

Metal? I have a metal plate in my head, does that count?

Best live show of the year:

I saw a homeless guy hit a cop. He got the shit beat out of him for his trouble, but it was a great show nonetheless.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

We have a scene?

Best tattooist you know:

Sean at Left Hand Path.

Best event/party of the year:

It's in my pants and you're all invited. (That just never gets old.)

Douche of the year:

Peter Ladner. If he is elected mayor I will move to Iceland.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Trust me, you don't want to know. (Editors: Aw, come on Chris. It's Christmas, a time of sharing...)

Ha ha. I actually like AU because it's the only rag around that isn't full of shitty indie bands. But I'm no ass kisser.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

DeNToR: Wartime Psychologist to

The Joint Chiefs, Gigolo to Ham Wailin', plus Humanitarian efforts with Sack Blabath.

Favourite local band?

Malice Plagued.

Best metal album of the year:

Testament's *The Formation of Damnation*.

Best live show of the year:

Iron Maiden's Somewhere Back in Time tour.

Best horror movie of the year:

My Name Is Bruce, starring Bruce Campbell as (ahem) Himself.

Best new local band?

Over the Coals.

Best tattooist you know:

Colours: Denis, at STS on Commercial.

Black: Sean, at Left Hand Path on Clark.

Best event/party of the year:

Goler-ranch Halloween house-party.

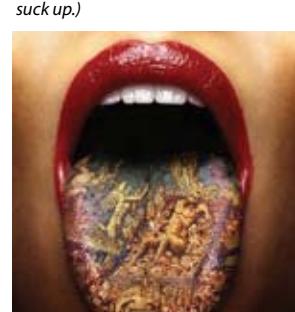
Douche of the year:

The Douches get no acknowledgment. Fuck 'em!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Spreading the Van Isl. Virus!!! Consistently the best music rag I've ever read!!!

(Editors: And this, friends, is how you suck up.)



Who are you?

Krissi-Steele, I am a crazy video maker and a bangin' event organizer.

Favourite local band?:

Evilosity.

Best metal album of the year:

Evilosity-Sickening Display of Redemption.

Best live show of the year:

3 Inches of Blood.

Best horror movie of the year:

Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer.

Best new local band?

Barbecution.

Best tattooist you know:

Steve Elia.

Best event/party of the year:

Every party at The Fall Tattooing.

Douche of the year:

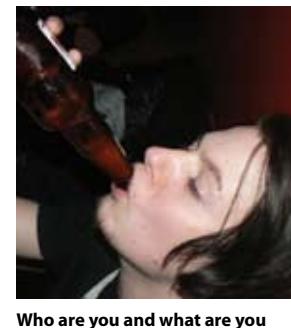
There have been so many... where do I start?

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

No other free zine offers the goryfiness. Where else can we read about others who are like us? The sick and twisted must build a unified zombie army!

Who are you and what are you best known for?

Chuck Wurley, best known for



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Ryan Timothy William Dyer. Calgary shit, Horror shit, miscellaneous strugglefucks; longcocking apprentice, hog squealer, and Lard Lad.

Favourite local band that everyone should know about:

Kataplexis, We Found the Body, Sacred Ally, Scorched Banditos.

Best metal album of the year:

Toxic Holocaust's *An Overdose Of Death*, Hanzel Und Gretyl's 2012

Zwanzig Zwolf, Gojira's *The Way of the Flesh*, Meshuggah's *Obzen* (btw,

fuck you Meshuggah for missing the Calgary show), Melvins' *Nude With Boots*, Strapping Young Lad's *1994-2006 The Chaos Years* (for the DVD).

Best live show of the year:

Monsters Of Rock, Summer Slaughter, Aggressive Tendencies, Gwar

never upsets. Just in this past

month, Dismember, Impaled, Evile,

Inflames, Toxic Holocaust and Zimmers Hole ripped shit up.

Best horror movie of the year:

Funny Games, Jack Brooks - *Monster Slayer*, Freezer Burn, Tokyo Gore

Police. Saw V was ok... I liked the simplicity of *The Strangers*, and *Zombie Strippers* was pretty amusing.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Bison.

Best event/party of the year:

GoreGames, DSOH3, Monsters Of Rock, Metal A Gore-Gore.

Douche of the Year:

Whoever stole my bike piece by piece from the train station. Couldn't just have one tire could ya, ya fuck!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

If I was in a band, I'd want to be in it more than those other flavour of the month trendy mags



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Douche of the year:
Justin Arthur, and Brent Roch. It's a tie.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I think I enjoy reading it when I'm hucking a shit. They should make them a bit softer so I can start wiping up with them as well.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Sean McKay and I'm best known as SPM the promoter!

Favourite band that everyone should know about:

Callahan.

Best punk of the year:

Ken Fleming (Goone).

Best hardcore band of the year:

Ninja Spy.

Best metal band of the year:

Stand Down.

Best punk album of the year:

Invasives.

Best hardcore album of the year:

Savannah's The road too...

Best metal album of the year:

Stand Down - Villains Parade.

Shittiest album of the year (any genre):

Something by Motley Crue.

Favourite Live show of the year:

Weezer.

Best movie of the year:

Tropic Thunder.

Best horror movie of the year:

The Happening.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Marble Rye.

Best tattooist you know:

Denis, at Superior Tattoo.

Best event/party of the year:

Nearly Famous Music Festival.

Shock of the year:

I actually got AC/DC tickets!!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I love it because it speaks from the heart of the underground scene where the smallest voices would go unheard otherwise!!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Grimm Culhane, I'm a photo journalist/savant best known for my calm demeanour (yeah right) and ability to talk to anyone about anything at any time. Being crazier than a two-fisted nut bird helps... oh, and I'm tall.

Favourite local band that everyone should know about:

NINJASPY!

Best punk or hardcore or metal band/album:

Grimm Culhane does not play favourites! Grimm Culhane plays EVERYTHING!

Shittiest album of the year (any genre):

Eyeiner Damage by My Cluttered Handbag.

Best live show of the year:

Tie: Boris w/ Liar of the Minotaur and Torche and Eagles of Death Metal with The Duke Spirit.

Best movie of the year:

Send a Bullet

Best horror movie of the year:

Let the Right One In

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Man Made Mountains

Best tattooist you know:

Paul Tynes : TheFallTattooing.com

Best skater you know:

Dude named Gus Wheatley - 11 year old who literally defies gravity!

Best event/party of the year:

Hallowe'en at the 416!

Shock of the Year:

What do you mean your pregnant?

Shock of the year part II:

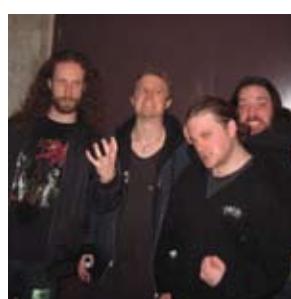
What do you mean it's not mine?

Douche of the Year:

The guy in the Armani suit who's constantly asking me for change.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

It's a floor wax AND a dessert topping! Actually, AU is Canada's premier West Coast Punk/Metal rag! Nuff sed!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

We are Gross Misconduct, best known for rocking the fuck out and then smoking all of your weed.

Favourite band that everyone should know about:

Iron Maiden. If you do not know about Iron Maiden already, please kill yourself.

Best punk of the year:

Wendy 13!

Best hardcore band of the year:

Hardcore? What is this hardcore you speak of? Does it have anything to do with Iron Maiden?

Best metal band of the year:

Helix.

Best punk album of the year:

Epics in Minutes, by Fucked Up.

Best hardcore album of the year:

The Damned, The Shamed, by Terror

Best metal album of the year:

New Metallica...good soundtrack to coming down.

Shittiest album of the year (any genre):

G & R's *Chinese Democracy*.

Favourite live show of the year:

DirtBombs, at Sugar.

Best horror movie of the year:

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Best metal band of the year:

Iron Maiden. The answer to this question has not changed since the late 1970s and will not change. Ever.

Best metal album of the year:

Origin's *Antithesis*.

Shittiest album of the year:

Who cares?

Favourite live show of the year:

Iron Maiden. Rime of the Ancient Mariner!

Best movie of the year:

We are too busy invoking the powers of Satan to go to movies.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

First Reign.

Best skater you know:

TimmyJak.

Best event/party of the year:

Meg and Jono's Post Nup Piss Up, at Pats Pub.

Shock of the year:

EuroBoy getting Cancer.

Douche of the year:

Cancer.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Stay local... dont get Cancer!

28 Days of Night.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

Start With the Cobra.

(Editors: Sheesh, you musicians... always plugging your own bands.)

The truth hurts, baby! I wouldn't say it if it weren't true.

Best tattooist you know:

DustJak / Jamer.

Best skater you know:

TimmyJak.

Best event/party of the year:

Meg and Jono's Post Nup Piss Up, at Pats Pub.

Shock of the year:

EuroBoy getting Cancer.

Douche of the year:

Cancer.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Stay local... dont get Cancer!



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Low voter turnout for both the federal and municipal elections. Come to think of it, I'm more disappointed than actually shocked.

Douche of the year:

Stephen Harper

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Always an amusing read and I love hearing where Ira is jetting off to next on the company dime!



Best punk album of the year:

Let's talk about something more interesting, like the fact McBride is once again back for a limited time!

Best movie of the year:

House of the Rising Punk!

Best horror movie of the year:

I'm banking on *Repo* to really show us the talent of Paris Hilton!

Best tattooist you know:

Denis who currently plays in S.N.F.U. and runs Eastside Tattoos. I really dig Dustin Jaks work too.

Best skater you know:

Duanne Peters.

Best event of the year:

The upcoming Santa Clause parade - like smelling playdough, it gives me a warm childlike glow!

Shock of the year:

My year has been like having your dick stuck in an electric socket, so I'm going to say that I'm still alive and shaking!

Douche of the year:

A rose is a rose by any other name and you can groom it you can bathe it but they always smell the same. I'm going to say Miley Cyrus. Who does she think she is, competing with Hannah Montana when we all know who the kids like best!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

When are you going to ask me to join your punk rock bowling team instead of asking me to sit here and polish your balls?

(Editors: If you can transfer that anger to the lanes, Billy, you're in.)

Best metal band of the year:

After reading interviews with them about the newly released documentary I'm going to say Anvil, but then again by the previous definition aren't they punk?





Patches! Zombies! Pirates! Shirts, Road Kill! Yodeling Pickles! Mustaches! Bags! Darwin...



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Who are you?
I'm some guy who travels around with his guitar, playing for whoever will listen. Otherwise known as Mr. Plow.

Favourite band?
Trouser Mouth from Winterpeg.

Best hardcore band of the year:
Any band that doesn't call themselves hardcore gets my vote.

Best metal band of the year:
Evil Survives.

Best punk album of the year:
Trouser Mouth - *Only Users Lose Drugs*.

Best hardcore album of the year:
B.A. Johnston's - *Stairway to Hamilton*.

Best metal album of the year:
Zimmer's Hole's - *When You Were Shouting at the Devil*.

Shittiest album of the year:
The one I don't listen to anymore, by that band with the makeup and glitter.

Favourite live show of the year:
Blowfly with Antiseen was pretty badass.

Best movie of the year:
Tropic Thunder brought the funny.

Best horror movie of the year:
Friday the 13th.

Best new band taking over your local scene:
Wolprn.

Best tattooist you know:
Dennis at Superior Tattoo.

Best skater you know:
The guy who holds it more than rides it.

Best event/party of the year:
Parties are for kids.

Shock of the year:
Being mistaken for an American.

Douche of the year:
Summer's Eve.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?
I like having it read to me when I'm trying to sleep.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Im Collin Wo and I play guitar in local metal heavyweights Sacred Ally. Also I've been supporting and helping bands in the metal scene for many years.

Favourite band that everyone should know about:

Check out our studio buds Gales of Avalon. Newbie black metal. Wicked.

Best metal band on the planet:
Tie between Blind guardian and Wintersun.

Best punk album of the year:
Homie don't do punk.

Best metal album of the year:
Into Eternity's *The Incurable Tragedy*.

Shittiest album of the year (any genre):
Iced Earth's *Crucible of man*.

Best live show of the year:
Iron Maiden.

Best movie of the year:
Anal Acrobats. (Porn counts right??)

Best new band taking over your local scene:
Sacred Ally...(we ain't new though).

Best tattooist you know:
My tattooist, Jason Dionne.

Best skater you know:
You talking best at wiping out?

Best event/party of the year:
Goregames!!!

Shock of the year:
Putting a wet nine volt battery on my nuts.

Douche of the year:
CJ 92. (Douchebags!)

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?
(in Murderface's voice) I approve.



Who are you?
I'm Bubba. I'm a nice fella, fer an asshole.

Favourite bands?
A four way Canadian tie this year. 3 inches of Blood. Bison. Tyrant's Blood. Fuck the Facts.

Best punk of the year:

T-shirts - Girly Tees - Embroidered Patches - Stickers - Hoodies



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The Big Boys still hold my heart.
Locally it's Black Flab!

Best hardcore band of the year:
Stegasorous Beach Defense, cause
they are hard as fuck.

Best metal band of the year:
3 inches of Blood. Bison. Tyrants
Blood and Fuck the Facts.

Best punk album of the year:
Victoria's The Banned, I have their
music in my head and as far as I'm
concerned it's an album!

Best hardcore album of the year:
Fucked Up. Anything they have
done is gold.

Best metal album of the year:
Bison's *Quiet Earth* and Fuck the
facts' *Disgorge Mexico*.

**Shittiest album/ (music) of the
year:**
Pretty much everything on Much
Music makes me want to vomit.

Best movie of the year:
I only saw one, and it sucked balls.

**Best new band taking over your
local scene:**
COMPOUND TERROR!

Best tattooist you know:
Mike at Stark Raving, in Victoria.

Best skater you know:
I still love Jamer the best, he's got
that style.

Shock of the year:
That I had to wear pants at my
shitty factory job. The first time in 20
years... I fucking hate pants. Shorts
are for real men.

Douche of the year:
Most people make me filled with
rage so you just have to look next
to you and you can bet I think that
person is a douche.



**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

My name is Heather Furneaux
founder of Clove & Anchor Produc-

tions.

Favourite Band?
Mike Patton and his various side
projects.

Best punk of the year:
The Rebel Spell.

Best metal band of the year:
Origin

Best metal album of the year:
March of the Inquisitors by Archon
Legion.

Favorite live show of the year:
Carcass and NOFX.

Best new local band:
Unleash the Archers.

Best tattooist you know:
Jeff White.

Best event/party of the year:
The Victoria Ska Festival

**What do you really think about
Absolute Underground?**
They are trying to take over the
world!



**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

E.S. Day. Getting drugs for celebs
who ditched their shit at the border.
**Favourite Local Band that every-
one should know about:**
NINJASPY.

Best metal album of the year:
Pi Nature, by Ninjaspy.

Best live show of the year:

Ninjaspy

Best horror movie of the year:

Shrooms: So fucking bad it was
good.

**Best new band taking over your
local scene:**

Ninjaspy

Best tattooist you know:

Paul Booth.

Best event/party of the year:

There were none – Vancouver sucks.

Douche of the year:

All Vancouver College Radio stations
– boy... are you people confused!

**What do you really think about
Absolute Underground?**

Fucking ruling, still the only
magazine that won't back out my
slanderous comments and I love
them for that!



**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

James "Newsboy" Callsen. Best
known for dropping atomic bombs
of news and information on the city,
weekday afternoons, on X 92.9.

Favourite local band:
The Martyr Index slay really fucking
hard.

Best punk or hardcore band:
Bad Religion.

Best metal band on the planet:
Metallica. Even though I'm not a fan
of their new record.

Best punk album of the year:
The Bronx III.

Best hardcore album of the year:
Coldplay, *Viva la Vida*.

Best metal album of the year:
Cavaleria Conspiracy's *Inflicted*.

**Shittiest album of the year (any
genre):**
Chinese Democracy.

Best live show of the year:
Against Me!, Calgary, Republik.

Best movie of the year:
Sukiyaki Western Django.

Best horror movie of the year:
Wall-E.

**Best new band taking over your
local scene:**

The Colin Decker Freefall is pretty
sick right now.

Best tattooist you know:

Heather Mclean.

Best skater you know:

Jerome Iglnila.

Best event/party of the year:
My wedding. Note: Do not invite At-

ack Addict to your wedding unless
you have an insurance policy and an
abundant supply of Pilsner and/or
Wild Turkey.

Shock of the year:
A black man in the White House.

Douche of the year:

Ezra Levant.

**What do you really think about
Absolute Underground?**

Keeps me entertained whilst drop-

ping a deuce.

**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

I am Kristin of BDFM and more re-

cently The Babecore. I get girls down
to their undergarments, or less, for

pictures. Buy the calendar (www.calgarybeercore.com).

Best punk of the year:

Favourite local bands:

We Found The Body and Colin
Decker Free Fall. Apparently I am
partial to bands with four words in
their name.

Best punk or hardcore band:

Smut Peddlers, 'cause fuck you,
that's why.

Best metal band on the planet:
Pig Destroyer, anything that makes
me want to punch shit.

Shittiest album of the year:
Any and all CDs that Oh Shit put out.

Best movie of the year:

Zack and Miri Make a Porno... dutch
udder motherfucker!

Best new local band:

Profits of Crime.

Best tattooist you know:

Darren Parnell at Eternal Image is my
life partner.

Best event/party of the year:

Calgary Beer Core Awards where
Calgary Lounge Core unveiled their
take on the CBC compilation, it was
pante-pants worthy.

**What do you really think about
Absolute Underground?**

I think that AU is the only zine that I
will go out of my way to read. I know
that there will always be something
that I can relate to, I don't have to
scratch my head wondering why
I haven't heard of half the bands
covered. Keep it coming!



**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

Sean Jenkins. I am mostly known for
screaming and singing in a metal
band called Divinity.

Favourite local bands:
Autobody, Caveat, and Nebucad-

Best metal band on the planet:
Currently it is Gojira, but overall it's
Iron Maiden or Metallica.

Best metal album of the year:
Tie between Gojira's *Way of the Flesh*
and Cynic's *Traced in Air*.

Shittiest album of the year:

Anything by Celine Dion

Best live show of the year:

3, at The Underground.

Best movie of the year:

Tropic Thunder and *The Dark Knight*.

Best horror movie of the year:

Cloverfield.

Best new local band:

Exit Strategy.

Best event/party of the year:

Holy Fuck! Zylpha Nail and Demonika
Turn 30 @ Snatch nightclub

Shock of the year:

My band Divinity on the Summer
Slaughter Canada tour.

Douche of the year:

Matt Damon or George W. Bush

**What do you really think about
Absolute Underground?**

I find that *Absolute Underground*
is one of the only magazines that
keeps me interested the whole way
through. Keep on supporting the
underground scene!



**Who are you and what are you
best known for?**

Clint Danroth, purveyor of cheap
insults, and sexy tattoo application.

Best punk of the year:



December

**Fri 5 - NEW FIGHT SCENE
& The Ke-Chunks (A Tribute to
Primitive Screwheads)**

Sat 6 - CLOSED (private function)

Fri 12 - CHAKOBSA, Diatessaron

& Illuminated Minerva

Sat 13 - LUMMOX w/ PC Theft

& Oh Shit

Fri 19 - CAST IN STONE,

Stranger at the Gate, & The Gaze

Sat 20 BLOATED PIG,

Slither in Exile & Wolvergaard

LOW CLASS/NO CLASS NEW YEARS!!!

FORBIDDEN DIMENSION!!!

OH SHIT!!!

THE GODDAMN S.O.B.S!!!

(a tribute to the Misfits)

**and a sneaky surprise headliner...
check our myspace updates for details...**

January

**Fri 2 - Put on your dancin' shoes, it's...
BUENO BUENO!**

Sat 3 - Metal up your ass!!!

MEGGIDO, Celestis & Eravado

Weekend of the 9/10th - TBA

Fri 16th - FISTFULL OF NICE,

Better Off Dead & guests

Sat 17 - Big Funk Party!!!

PLATINUM ALIBI w/ guests

Fri 23 - CRIPPLE CREEK FAIRIES

w/ Starve the Artist

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Gogol Bordello.

Best hardcore band of the year:

Duran Duran

Best metal band of the year:

The Sword, or Three Inches of Radness(Blood).

Best punk album of the year:

Northern Avenger, by DOA.

Best metal album of the year:

Gods of the Earth, by The Sword.

Favourite live show of the year:

Gogol Bordello.

Best movie of the year:

Hell Ride.

Best horror movie of the year:

Zombie Strippers.

Best new local band:

Bison is not all that new, but is still the shit.

Best tattooist you know:

Mark Jansen, Hugues Lauzier.

Best skater you know:

Hugues Lauzier, Mark Jansen.

Best event/party of the year:

Any tattoo convention, anywhere, anytime.

Douche of the year:

L.A. Ink creator Charlie Corwin, stick to wildlife documentaries and cooking shows for TLC, FUCKNUT!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Makes really good bedding for the Crackheads sleeping outside my shop.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Pauly "Hardcore." I'm responsible for bringing you the Wretched Winnipeg and Hardcore Alley sections

as well as maintaining an extensive collection of live video footage on www.youtube.com/790fspades

Favourite local bands that everyone should know about:

Vile Style, Foul Play, The Rebel Spell, Bodyguard, Compound Terror Hierophant, Run Like Hell, Hit the Bricks, Set Foot, Mayday Mayday. Archon Legion, Mitochondrion, Lesbian Fist Magnet and Keg Killers.

Best metal album of the year:

Misery Index's *Traitors*, Origin's *Antithesis*, Gojira's *The Way of All Flesh*.

Best punk album of the year:

Fucked Up's *The Chemistry of Common Life*, Dillinger Four's *Civil War*.

Best hardcore album of the year:

GraveMaker's *Bury Me at Sea*, Ghostlimb's *Bearing and Distance*, Gridlink's *Amber Grey*, the best power-violence album I have ever heard.

Worst album of the year:

Guns'n Roses' *Chinese Democracy*. Tell me Axl is on the blow again, that's the only logical explanation for this shitshow.

Best live show of the year:

Iron Maiden, at the Pacific Coliseum, Through the Noise Tour, CBK & Bane at The Plaza Club and VH1 Fest IV at Norway House.

Best horror movie of the year:

Teeth – check it out – ouch!!!

Best new local band:

I'd have to say Mayday! Mayday!

Best tattooist you know:

Dustin B. Ward at URGE Studios – go see him he's the best! Dustin Jak at Old School Tattoo's – Amazing Skills Emily @ URGE – extremely talented!!! Jamer @ Sailor Jerry's Olde Tyme Shop – Outstanding!

Best event/party of the year:

Van Isle Hardcore Fest IV. Hands fucking DOWN! My kinda party!

Douche of the year:

Immigration officials who arrested Die Young (TX) before they played the show in Vancouver and the douchebags who tipped them off. Also a big Fuck you the Stephen Harper!

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?
You probably don't want to know.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Demonika, known for my clothing company, putting on big underground shows, performance art, and being the woman of your dreams.

Favorite Local Bands:

Nebucadnezz, Primitive Screwheads, Kilyakai, Scorched Banditos, Divinity, there are lots of good local bands.

Best Punk or Hardcore Band

Genghis Tron, *I Wrestled A Bear Once* makes me laugh, As I Lay Dying and All Shall Perish are also really solid.

Best Metal band on the planet

Some tops are Arsis, Acid Bath, At The Gates, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ, Rapture, Agalloch, and Goatwhore.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Volbeat - *Rock The Rebel/Metal The Devil*. But The Pisoffs definitely had the best looking release.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Dog Fashion Disco - *Beating a Dead Horse to Death*.

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Arisis - *We are nightmare*
Misery Index - *Traitors*
Neuraxis - *The Thin Line Between*

Shittiest Albums of the Year:

Austrian Death Machine - *Total Brutal*, it was funny for 5 seconds, then just annoying. Also Chrome Division - *Baooze, Broads and Beelzebub*, I don't know how an album with such a cool name could be so bad.

Best Live show of the year:

All 20 minutes of Arsis in Hollywood, they opened for Goatwhore. Amaz-

ing show holy shit!

Best Movie of the Year:
Zack & Miri Make A Porno was hilarious. Dark Knight was deadly.

Best Horror Series of the Year:
True Blood & Dexter

Best New Local Band:

Exit Strategy

Best tattooist you know:

James Tex, & Craig Fenrick

Best Event/Party of the Year:

My Symphony of Horrors

Shock of the Year:

That we get to send GW packing

Douche of the Year:

The ALGC

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?

Best free publication in Western Canada.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Jesus "Rock & Roll" Bonehead. Drummer of the Dayglo Abortions. Best known for: Stirring the pot, staying up way later than anyone else in the room & Fucking Shit disturbin' the masses till the end of time!

Favorite Bands:

Municipal Waste / Nomeansno / The Golers

Best Punk Band of the Year:

Gay!

Best Hardcore Band of the Year:

Nay!

Best Metal Band of the Year:

Fuck the Hair Spray!
actually...B.E.L.P.H.E.G.O.R!

Best Punk Album of the Year:

Fresh Fruit for Rotten Vegetables... as

always...

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Belphegor: *Bondage Goat Zombie...*
(yeah I know it's ridiculous)

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)

GNR (of the decade)

Favorite Live Show of the Year:

Dayglo Abortions @ The Com-

modore

Best Movie of the Year:

Iron Man

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Halloween, the remake by Rob Zombie.

Best Tattooist you know:

ORY!

Douche of the Year:
Lettuce for disrespecting my home!

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?

AU really has its finger on the pulse of current underground subculture in Western North America. Their team of writers bring the aforementioned together with their inquisitive and provocative writing styles; asking the real questions to inform and empower the reader. Plus, it's free! I say, 3 cheers for Absolute Underground!



the abbreviation works better anyway.

Best Live show of the Year:
Monsters of Rock (I'm biased though)

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Zeitgeist addendum

Best New Local Band:

Day One

Best skater you know:

Mike Porteous

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Tour after party in Kamloops

Shock of the Year:

Opening for Iced Earth

Douche of the Year:

Sled Island Festival

What do you really think about

Absolute Underground?

AU really has its finger on the pulse of current underground subculture in Western North America. Their team of writers bring the aforementioned together with their inquisitive and provocative writing styles; asking the real questions to inform and empower the reader. Plus, it's free! I say, 3 cheers for Absolute Underground!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Nate and I play Bass in Kilyakai.

Also known for being huge.

Favorite Local Band:

Fukin' Exit Strategy

Best Punk or Hardcore Band:

The Duped (Punk), Stab Twist

Pull(Hardcore)

Best Metal band on the planet:

Meshuggah

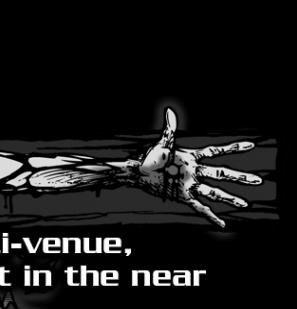
Best Metal Album of the Year:

Decimate The Weak- *Winds of Plague*

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre):

Gotta be "Circus" By BS, I don't even

want to write her name and I think



AU will be launching a multi-venue, multi-province Zombie Film Fest in the near future called



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Best hardcore band of the year:

Jaws

Best metal band of the year:

Bison B.C.

Best metal album of the year:
Bison - *Quiet Earth*

Favourite live show of the year:
The 2nd Annual Green Mountain Music Festival in Nanaimo, BC.

Best movie of the year:
The Dark Knight

Best new local band:
The Pack A.D.

Best tattooist you know:

Brandon Nixon from Everlasting Ink, Nova Scotia.

Best skater you know:

Jordon Zylstra

Best event/party of the year:
The Green Mountain Music Festival!

Shock of the year:
The Hotel Lobbyists' tour accident.

Douche of the year:
The booking agent at the Silver Dollar Room in Toronto.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?
It's one of the most consistently accurate local music mags.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Isaac Creasey. I'm best known for not paying my Absolute Underground invoices... but moreover, I book a little venue in Calgary called The Stetson.

Favorite Local Bands:

I really like Oh Shit right now but I also like The Juniors a lot.

Best Punk or Hardcore Band:

CDF...hahaha. Shit or We found the body

Best Metal band on the planet:

Fuckin' Slayer man.

Best Punk Album of the Year:

BDFM. *Get Drunk Or Die Trying...* totally worth checking out even if you hate The CBC and Mark Russell.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Deadneck Fury is killing it right now.

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Exit Strategy hands down.

Shittiest Album of the Year:

I don't listen to shitty albums.

Best Live show of the Year:

SNFU @ The Stetson.

Best Movie of the Year:

Duh... Calgary Beer Core The Movie.

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Hancock. The thought of Will Smith with an even BIGGER ego... Terrifying.

Best New Band taking over your local scene:

Well WFTB seem to be doing a good job.

Best tattooist you know:

Dan Cameron

Best skater you know:

I guess the kid down the street. He's like six and does kick flips and has a fun box and everything.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Demonika @ The Stetson. That kicked ass.

Shock of the Year:

Dead Jesus @ The Stetson. First and Last time.

Douche of the Year:

Every fucking tour manager ever. They all go to the same school as cops.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

I think AU is an integral part of keeping scenes connected and bands on the road. As long as people can read about a band from somewhere else and eventually see them later... amazing.



Who are you?

David Bertrand. I make movies, work in the film industry, and have written for lots of mags in the last four years.

Favourite band that everyone should know about:

Current & local: Keyboard/vocal freak Dan Moxom's BEND SINISTER are blowing my mind.

Best punk of the year:

Chris Walter's Gofuckyerself Press pumps out punk prose faster than yer crusty pierced dink can squeak, "Harlequin Junkie-Punk Romance".

Best hardcore band of the year:

Torche. Somewhere between thrash, sludge, fist-pumpin' and a big barrel of doom, Torche evoked my favourite live moment of the year. I remember the walls melting. My ears popped. A dove died.

Best metal band of the year:

BISON! Best live band around town. They leave the best bruises and do dude-thrash better than anyone.

Best metal album of the year:

BORIS - *Smile*. Grab the Japanese edition! Different song arrangements, widely different mixes. Japanese freaks getting freaky with big amps, this is my heaven.

Shittiest album of the year:

The New Kids on the Block put out a new album.

Favourite live show of the year:

Saul Williams at Bumbershoot - Changed my life!

Best movie of the year:

Jean-Claude Van Damme playing himself in *JCVD* was a hot ticket, also Korean madman Ji-woon Kim's *The Good, the Bad, the Weird*.

Best horror movie of the year:

Let The Right One In.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

The TVees have been rocking my tits right into my mouth with no-bullshit-whatsoever, Rock'N'Roll from the old-old-old-school of Chuck Berry and 60's garage.

Best event of the year:

The 2nd Annual Green Mountain Music Festival in Nanaimo. Marvelous bands played all day, followed by a Bison stampede at sundown. All to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis.

Shock of the year:

My good friends & jam-space mates The Hotel Lobbyists suffered a serious tour bus accident in Manitoba, which killed drummer Mike Gurr instantly, and left singer/guitarist/band leader James Wood hospitalized with a long road to recovery. That crash has affected pretty much everyone I know.

Douche of the year:

Stephen Harper is so obviously an Atlantean Reptoid of the Illuminati wearing poorly fitting human skin, and yet you idiots re-elected him.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Magazine is rad, but better fact-checking would be nice! Anyway, it's gotten much better lately. Thank you Emily. Awesome work.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

I'm Bettina May and I'm best known for being in a Probot music video with Lemmy from Motorhead and

Dave Grohl. I dance a lot, and model even more. Check out Bettina.ca for more about my cool projects!

Favourite band that everyone should know about:

The Stolen Minks, from Halifax.

Best metal band of the year:

Sinking Ships, from Montreal.

Best metal album of the year:

Harvest of Seasons, by Black Lotus.

Favourite live show of the year:

Stolen Minks, Rugged Uncle, at Logan's.

Best movie of the year:

The only new movie I can recall seeing and liking was *Dark Knight*, but the best old movie I watched was *Bull Durham*.

Best new band taking over your local scene:

The Zap Straps.

Best event/party of the year:

I'm going out on a limb to predict that the Dec 16th show I'm doing with Hank and Lily at Lucky Bar is going to be the best party of the year, not only because it's the last show I'll be doing in Victoria for perhaps a year or more!

Douche of the year:

Too many d-bags to name.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

It's really good to lay out on the floor and stand on when I'm getting my body airbrushed.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Uncle Anus - Dirty Bird, *Absolute Underground*.

Favourite Local Band:
Ball Harness.

Best punk or hardcore band:

Dirty Bird!!!

Best metal band on the planet:

Tragedy.

Best punk album of the year:

Restarts' *Outsider*.

Best hardcore album of the year:

Dirty Bird's *Seeks*.

Best metal album of the year:

Airbourne's *Runnin' Wild*.

Shittiest album of the year:

Guns N' Roses' *Chinese Democracy*.

Best live show of the year:

Chi Pig with Dennis, Goonie, and Chad as SNFU.

Best movie of the year:

Iron Man.

Best horror movie of the year:

Diary of the Dead.

Best new local band:

My Dead Furby.

Best tattooist you know:

Carl Carscallin, at Way Cool Queen St. (Toronto)

Best skater you know:

Tommy (my neighbour).

Best event/party of the year:

The Last Pogo 30 year reunion

Shock of the year:

Uncle Anus is getting married.

Douche of the year:

Mr. Plow!

(Editors: Don't encourage him...)

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Good for reading... bad for wiping!



Who are you and what are you best known for?

My name is Grant, also known as G



JANUARY 20 - WAREHOUSE

CALGARY - DOORS 8 PM - NO MINORS - TIX ALSO AT SLOTH

PRIVATE CLUB - MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS

JANUARY 21 - STARLITE ROOM

EDMONTON - DOORS 8 PM - NO MINORS - TIX ALSO AT BLACKBYRD

PRIVATE CLUB - MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS



Money. I'm known for being a band whore even though I've recently cut my whoring down to two bands, Archon Legion and Lesbian Fist Magnet.

Favorite Band that everyone should know about:
Hibria

Best Punk Band of the Year:
Municipal Waste

Best Metal Band of the Year:
3 Inches of Blood! Representing Canada at Wacken!

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Star Fucking Hipsters - *Until We're Dead* - featuring members from Leftover Crack

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Kalmah - *For the Revolution*. Not their strongest release but still amazing.

Shittiest Albums of the Year:
New G n R and Metallica albums, what a joke.

Favorite Live show of the Year:
Tie between Carcass and Iron Maiden, I can finally die happy.

Best Movie of the Year:
HELLRIDE. Booze, Bikers and Boobs, Baby!

Best New Local Band:
Unleash the Archers

Best tattooist you know:
Scott at Blank Generation.

Best skater you know:
Stinky Mark aka. Beardo.

Shock of the Year:
Finding out that Carcass was coming.

Douche of the Year:
Whoever stole Archon Legions merch money, you know who you are... Bastard!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?
AU kicks ass! Keep it coming and keep spreading it to the world.



Who are you?
I'm Erik Lindholm. Best known for quietly fading into the background...

Best Punk or Hardcore Band

or staggering through it with beer in hand.

Favorite Local Bands:
Mitochondrion and Switchblade Valentines.

Best Metal Albums of the Year:
Cynic - *Traced In Air* is amazing! Also, Opeth - *Watershed*, The Haunted - *Versus*, Origin - *Antithesis*.

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Teenage Head w/ Marky Ramone.

Best Live show of the Year:
Wacken Open Air 2008... hands down. Iron Maiden, Kreator, At The Gates, Carcass, Obituary, Cynic, The Haunted, Watain, 3 Inches of Blood, Gorgoroth, Opeth...

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Cloverfield. Also Rambo 4 killed it.

Best New Local Band:
November Rising.

Best tattooist you know:
Steve Moore - www.getmooretattoos.com

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Beerfest volunteer party then rocking out in the pit to Finntroll and Warbringer.

Douche of the Year:
Sarah Palin.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

The more people read and learn about their scene, the stronger it will be. It encourages people to explore and participate! New bands, sounds, artists, movies, clothing, products - created and consumed. It's gives a chance for people on the outside to have their say, and that is vital to keeping everything alive and well. Rock on.



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Mark Morr, long lanky bastard

Best Hardcore Band of the year:

Toxic Holocaust

Best Metal band of the year:

Bison

Favorite Live show of the Year:

Unrest Fest

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Diary Of The Dead

Best tattooist you know:

Dustin Schwam

Best skater you know:

Lyndon Strandquist

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Demonika's 30th birthday bash at Snatch.

Shock of the Year:

Frankie Venom, RIP

Douche of the Year:

Madonna



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Chad Persley, your turbo lover.

Best bands of the year:

Toxic Holocaust, Municipal Waste, Bison BC and Evile ripped shit up in the studio and on stage.

Favorite Live show of the Year:

Unrest Fest '08, and Monsters of Rock - Ozzy rules but Priest stole the whole F'N show.

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Diary Of The Dead, Zombie Strippers

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Punkrock Bowling, 4 days in Vegas, when you are ordering drinks to drink in the cab, you know you are going pretty good.

Shock of the Year:
We have kept this mag going, entering year five!

Douche of the Year:
Sean Avery and Jim Lahey

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"I'M GOING TO BE THE CANADIAN OBAMA - I WILL INSPIRE OUR NATION"

Interview w/ Damian Abraham aka Pink Eyes, vox

By: Pauly HC

Photos by: Toni Francois

Toronto's champions of the Underground are continually re-inventing themselves before our very eyes. A Band that staunchly opposed ever touring in support of their music in the early incarnations of the band have now pulled a complete 180 and basically haven't left the road for over a year. I called front-Beast Damian Abraham up on a brief timeout from touring and fleshed out 63 minutes of all that is Fucked Up w/ the burly giant.

"Everything I do on the road is in some way done to alienate my band-mates. You know there's six people in the band now with completely different ideas of what fun is and absolutely nothing in common."

Since forming in 2003 Damian claims to have legitimately tried to quit the band on three separate occasions and in total the band have had 6 near break-ups. "People think we champ

that aspect of the band up a lot – but it's probably one of the most true aspects of the band – there is literally always someone fighting someone else at any given moment. Ben's really good at diffusing those situations."

Hashing out what transpired at the after-party gig at SXSW and their

overall experience there he gets a touch nostalgic.

"Two years ago there were a lot of people there and we just thought it was bizarre and then this year it was just out of control. I don't know how severe the fear of collapse was, but you could definitely feel it buckling. As soon as you get that many people in a confined space you just get that fear of stampedes and panic. From a musical standpoint probably one of the worst fucked up sets we've ever played. The highlight for me was that I got to hang out with Jay Mascus. The first show I ever went to was a dinosaur Jr. Show, so it was just totally bizarre hanging out with him like 14 years later, it just blows my mind."

Known for pulling epic shows out of Damians' Mangina like it was two'er night in the local red light district is becoming somewhat of a trademark, be it doing \$2000 worth of damage at MTV and then a year later being invited back to play and staged in the bathroom [at the insistence of MTV – obvious gluttons for

punishment], he recounts their most recent 12 hour show in a clothing store in NYC.

"We ended up playing for about eight hours and the rest of the time were special guests coming in to do sets of cover songs with us – like Moby came in and did a bunch of Ramones songs with us, Ezra of Vampire Weekend doing a blitz song, Tim from Les Savy Fab doing an underdogs song – Jay Mascus came in and did a Last Rights song we had. Matt Sweeny from Zwan and Jay Mascus do a jam session, John Joseph from the cro-mags was there... The Vivian girls did a short set as well so like – it was probably the best party I had ever been to. At the end it kind of fell apart

because people had been drinking malt liquor all day – everyone was kind of amped and you could tell that fights were gonna start so we actually ended the show 20 minutes early and at the very end of the night when everyone had gone, Michael Stipe showed up to congratulate us. It was pretty awesome – got to hang out with him for a bit and I asked him, you know, would you have done a song with us – and he just laughed and said probably not."

I asked Damian what he thought of his sudden fame and numerous appearances on the cover of magazines in North America and abroad and the reaction and pressures from media outlets on their controversial namesake.

"Yeah it's weird you know – very bizarre, I'm living proof that you can be 300lbs, Balding and hairy and still find yourself on the cover of a magazine that's not "Bears Life" although I'm totally featured on this website called "Bear Watch" or something. There's a lot of media sources who won't print our name period. It's funny the *New York Times* calls us 'the band that cannot be named.' It's really weird – I've been in the there three or four times and they've never once used the name of the band. We never thought we'd get coverage anyway so honestly we didn't really care about the controversy around our name.

In hopes of the rumored plans to hit Victoria in

HARDCORE ALLEY

support of the new album being true, Damian confirms, "We're gonna get to Victoria at the beginning of the year on our February tour for the new record. I mean, Victoria is known for how amazing their hardcore scene is, possibly the best in Canada and even historically. Bands like the Neo's, the Dayglo's and numerous others were just so great. There was this great 'zine from Victoria called *Bad Attitude* that was just so amazing from like 1982 or 1983, you know you read 'zines from other parts of the world at that time and they just seemed so narrow in focus as compared to that. Victoria's kind of like the secret heart of Canadian Hardcore."

This time around they took a vastly different approach to recording. 10,000 marbles, who if he had his way would keep Fucked Up a solely studio band and never perform live, layered numerous songs with over 100 individual guitar tracks and the attention to detail is rather staggering.

"Normally in the past – like with *Hidden World* for instance, we had it all written before we went into the studio and then it was just a mad dash to get it recorded – whereas this time we spent a lot of time jamming the songs out getting an idea kind of how we wanted them to sound like and it was very fractured. Then we went on the road for so long we'd just kind of go back, listen to the songs and add a little more. With *hidden world* it was kind of a loose concept about finding hidden worlds, whereas this album is all about trying to understand those hidden worlds, trying to understand nature and trying to understand religion. So I guess this album is more about understanding. The first record was more about questioning, so maybe the next record will be the conclusion and that'll be the record that stops world hunger – stops war & people will be like "what do ya know – Fucked Up had the answer all along."

(Lookingforgold.blogspot.com)

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Gimme An R!

by Ira Hunter

AU: Who are you for the record?

Brian Vollmer: Brian Vollmer of the band Helix, lead vocalist.

AU: You've been representing Canadian Metal from day one...

BV: Well I don't know about from day one. When we started off we weren't really known as a metal band, we were basically a top 40 cover band. During the late 70s we played the heavier type of music at bars. Stuff like Aerosmith and Nugent.

AU: What pushed you to the harder edge when the 80's hit?

BV: We were still playing the bars when we started writing the stuff for *No Rest For The Wicked*. We had done two independent albums, where we were searching for our identity, but it wasn't really until *No Rest For The Wicked* that we really came together sound wise. We were just hard working guys who at that time were doing over 300 dates a year.

AU: What was your peak of success, back in the glory days?

BV: Well our peak hasn't come yet. Whenever you are looking at a really long career, and I consider myself having a long career with Helix being around for 34 years now, you don't really think of it in terms of success or of being a star. I couldn't just run around the circuit doing the hits. I have to be doing stuff off a new album. Right now we have the new Christmas album out called a *Heavy Mental Christmas*.

AU: What is the concept behind the Christmas album? Is it covers?

BV: Well our Christmas album is 9 covers and one original but what makes our Christmas album different is, first off there's not many heavy metal / heavy rock Christmas albums around and secondly what we've done is we've taken a lot of these songs, they're traditional songs, with a few exceptions like the John Lennon and Paul McCartney song and the Elvis Presley song but a lot of the older songs like "Jingle Bells", and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." We did arrangements on them and we incorporated a lot of the rhythms and arrangement ideas that are from the 80s.

AU: So the 80's hit and metal is accepted by the mainstream. Who were some of the cool bands you played with during these times?

BV: We continue to play with a lot of great bands. Just last July for instance, we played down in Texas with UFO, LA Guns, Tesla, Queensrÿche, and Dokken. But over the years we've performed with Alice Cooper, we toured Europe with Kiss on the *Lick It Up* album. We've done three tours with Motorhead, we've played with Mercyful Fate, Girlschool, Quiet Riot, Wasp, and Krokus.

AU: How many Helix albums have you released?

BV: Studio albums, there is probably around 13 or

14. It's a legacy to leave and we keep putting out material, I think I got quite a few albums left in me.

AU: What would you say your biggest hits are and do you still play them live?

BV: We play the hits, because that's what the fans come to see. We got "Heavy Metal Love", which was in the first *Trailer Park Boys* movie last year.

AU: Yeah, that was cool.

BV: No Rest For The Wicked, The Dirty Dog, Deep



Cuts The Knife, which was a big hit for us in the United States, The Kids Are All Shaking, Make Me Do Anything You Want, and Gimmie Good Lovin'.

AU: Classics. One day are you going to be in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

BV: I don't know about that.

AU: Tell us more about your song being featured in the *Trailer Park Boys* movie. Did you get the chance to hang out with them?

BV: Actually, I was just in the new *Trailer Park Boys* movie. They flew me out to Dartmouth, NS. I'm good friends with all the guys. I can't tell you what my part is but I had a blast out there. Alex Lifeson, from Rush was out there with us filming. Mike Clattenburg, the director, told me it should be out next September but I've heard since that it's going to be out in May. As for the TV show, I heard this is the last season coming up.

AU: Do you play yourself in the movie?

BV: I can't tell you. I actually had to sign a confidentiality agreement for this movie.

AU: How many dates on on this current tour?

BV: This tour is 13 dates, then we go home and play in our hometown of London Ontario. Then we have the big Vollmer Christmas party at my house Planet Helix, which was featured on MTV's *Cribs*.

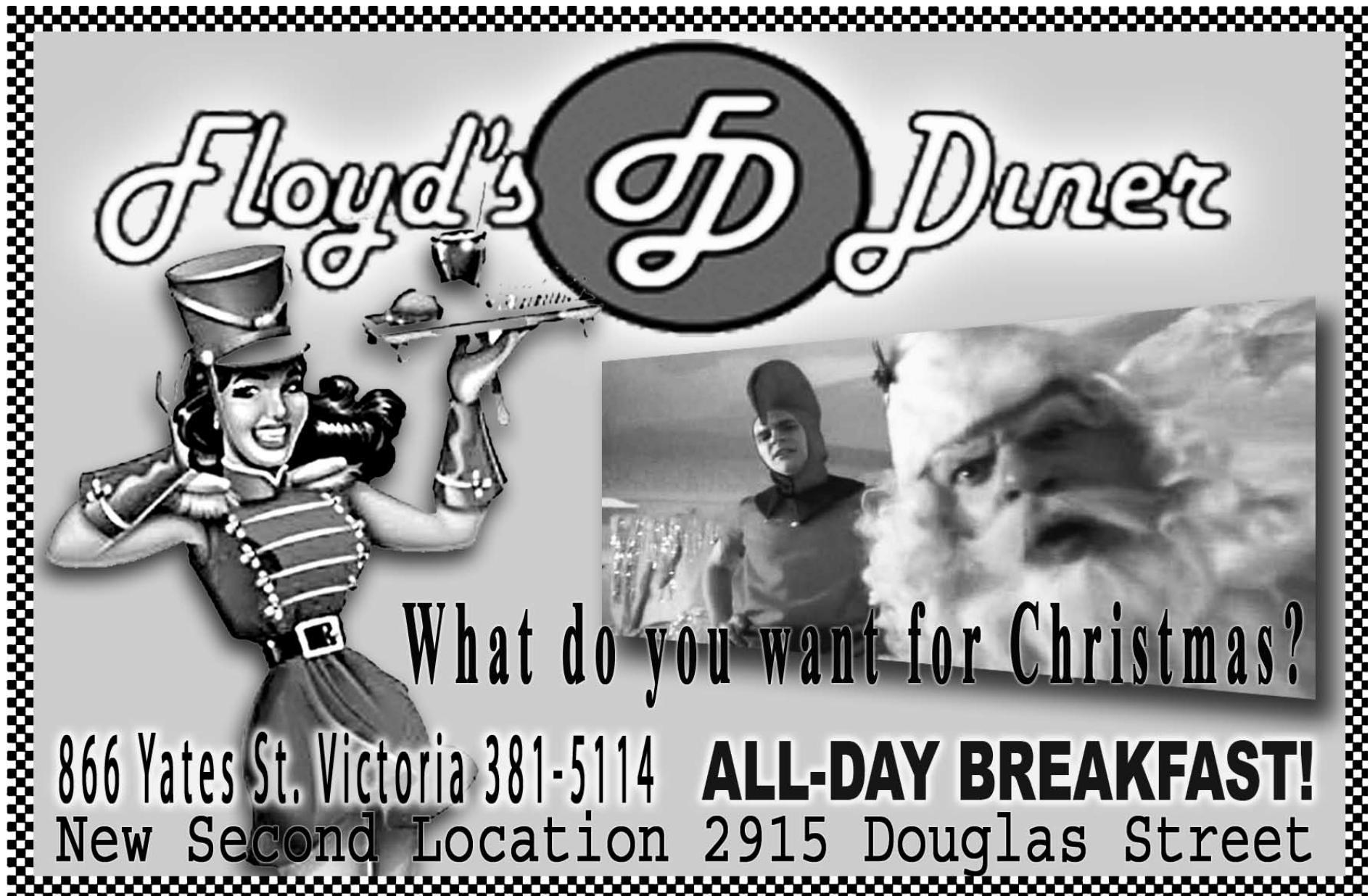
AU: Anvil, another Canadian metal band, had a documentary made. Have you seen it yet?

BV: I haven't seen the Anvil movie but I was just mentioning that I think a really good bill would be Helix, Killer Dwarfs, and Anvil. Basically the three biggest metal bands to come out of this country.

AU: Any final words for fans that are reading across Canada ?

BV: The thing that kept Helix going for all these 34 years is our connection with our grassroots following, answering e-mails, and shaking hands after the show, we still do that.

(Planethelix.com)



"Fuck The Bitch"

Tattooing at England's London Tattoo Convention

By Clint Danroth

Cramped up in a ball, desperately trying to find some sort of position that would resemble human comfort, I sit here on the red-eye flight to England thinking of what might await me at this year's London Tattoo Festival.

The check-in time at the convention hotel is always hilarious.

Usually I am one of the first artists to check in, and in this five star set up, I instantly make an impact with the regular crowd. When they see the likes of me stumbling in with my visible tattoos, ink stained jeans and the smell of the dead, they instantly grab their purses and wallets. Ha! They have no idea what they are in store for over the next few days.

Tattooing any convention is always an exercise in futility. No matter how well you prepare for these things, you never bring everything you need. I have learned to just say fuck it, deal with it when you get there, but "set-up" time is still a little nerve wracking. Luckily, a lot of these guys here are coming overseas as well, not so many Canadians (in fact, I am the only guy from the west, and Imago and Tattoomania are representing MTL) but lots of Americans. So there is always someone willing to lend you whatever you forgot.

People always ask me why I would fly half way across the world to tattoo in a foreign city, spending loads of cake with no hope of making it back, but really what it's all about is getting out of the fish bowl and seeing what's out there. Tattoo has become more than just the ink in your skin. The purveyors of this art have refined their skills into a recognizable style, unique to that artist, and clients travel far and wide just to have their work on them. These artists are not glamour gods of television, or drama queens of L.A. The true industry of tattoo lies within the convention circuit. These artists have defined tattoo into what exists today: a truly diverse industry of art.



INK SLINGERS

The artists at this show are extensive, only the best are invited, but the booths I always try to check out are Mike Rubendal (USA), Henning Jorgensen (Denmark), Shige (Japan) and Joe Capobianco (USA). There are, of course, scores more. I think there's over 300 artists as well as the Suicide Girls, other exhibitors and various freak shows. The after party is held at the host hotel and that's when it gets fun.

The hotel is now fully infested with tattoo artists and fans alike. Piercings, tattoos, mohawks and always a bit of nudity make the regular Londoners think they have just stepped into their worst nightmare.

I never like working hung over, but conventions are just a vacation for me, even though I feel like shit through the whole thing, fighting off the jet lag with copious amounts of beer and rum, I still love it. Working in this state is crazy, starting at 11, working until one or two in the morning, then drinking till dawn - true bender for the professional tattoo artist. Three solid days of this and I am done, the hotel is back to normal, and the few of us remaining look like freaks again. Haven't left the hotel or venue once, the hotel or venue once,

food and nourishment comes in the form of stale sandwiches and cold coffee, but that's the way. My sightseeing takes place during the cab ride to the airport: The Palace, Bigben, the Tower of London, I have my camera in my hand, but don't take any photos. So, back to the question, "Why do I work these things?" Or, "Was it worth it?" I usually don't bother with this shit, to make it simple if you don't get it, you never will.

Absolute Album Reviews

ALKALINE TRIO - Agony and Ivory

Major

By far one of my favourite bands... oh, wait a minute, that was a few years ago now. This is A-Trios sixth studio release and as the years have passed so too has their edge. There is something to be said for low expectations because in all reality I do like the record. All of the 11 tracks (although some a bit too lengthy) are written with a style that only Alkaline Trio are capable of. Even their radio hit "Help Me", although not the best song on the record, is better than the rest of the tripe on the airwaves. As you can tell I am conflicted on this review. On one hand I have heard their potential and am aware that they peaked four years ago. Then the songs are so over produced and radio friendly there seems to be a complete disregard for their fans that helped them reach their success. But on the other hand, Alkaline Trio has evolved, grown and mellowed as we all seem to do with age. This could be a much worse record. If you liked Crimson you will like this. If not, throw on Maybe I'll Catch Fire, chant "Like a dog shitting razor blades" and represent.

-Jym Wilson

BDFM - Get Drunk or Die Trying

Calgary Beer Core Records

If you like to go to punk shows, get drunk, swear and rowdy then chances are your theme song is one of the tracks on this record. Lucky for you, this is BDFM's best recording to date. After a few listens you have their "Fuck You" and beer swilling anthems humming through your brain. With dual vocalists and an active lead guitar on top of bonesnapping riffs, this effort has laid the groundwork for good things to come. If you enjoy a punk/hardcore offering that will punch you in the mouth, GET DRUNK or DIE TRYING!

-Coke Gibson

BENEATH THE MASSACRE

- Dystopia

Prosthetic Records

Sweet metalcore arpeggio Jesus! Beneath The Massacre provides echoes of Necrophagist and Misery Index. Blast beats, groovy scale based riffs – transitioning into grindy hardcore passages. Add howling vocals to the mix and you have a unpredictable, high energy explosion. Another worthy band to emerge from the Quebec scene.

- Erik Lindholm

Black Ships - Omens

New Romance for Kids Records

This record sounds like what would happen if Montreal francophone's ran the Apocalypse. It would be dark and edgy, distorted and artsy, and everyone would have fantastic moustaches. These guys were so good when they came here that people are pretending they were there just to look cool. There are two really great things about this album. 1) The drummer looks like a pudgy Jason Michaud, and drums like an epileptic being held down by Michael J. Fox. 2) You gain instant art-fag cred by mentioning it in the same breath as The Locust and Andy Warhol. This is eight tracks of aural dystopia, and everyone should own it.

-Austin Simpson

CIVET - Hell Hath No Fury

Hellcat Records

Part of me loves this record, and part of me, well, is bored with it already. I do prefer this new album to stuff I heard from the band a few years ago. To give a

little background, Civet are a four piece punk rock band from Orange County, California. They play fairly generic punk rock, and they do it well. Now what sets Civet apart, is all four of them are women. And as anyone who listens to punk rock knows, there are not a lot of punk bands that feature women, let alone completely female groups. This in itself sets Civet apart! The record does keep reminding me of the Distillers, though. This mostly stems from Liza Graves voice sounding a lot like Brodie Dalle's. But this isn't the worst thing on earth, I loved the first two Distillers albums. This record does not break new ground musically, is what I am saying, but it is well played for what it is, well produced, and for once, not all the songs are about girls. Instead they are by girls! When they compare boys to streetcars Civet are at their best, and when they keep playing the same simple lead over and over again, they are, well, a punk rock band.

-Chuck Wurley

Fucked Up - The Chemistry of Common Life

Matador Records

Most bands in this genre would be ostracized for incorporating a flute intro to start the album – and littering three musical tracks comprised of hundreds of guitar tracks and ambient noise over the course of the albums 11 songs and 50+ minutes. The band shatters what the pre-conceived notions are of punk/hardcore, at times mirroring what they achieved with 2006's Hidden World and at others – going so far away from it that you would struggle to argue they are the same band. In essence they aren't. Damian's vocals are still the ever recognizable snarly growl but the guitars are a lot heavier with the addition of a third guitarist. Taking a lead from the hip-hop and rap subculture they employed numerous guest vocalists to add an even broader depth to the already limitless songs. It's great to see a band trying to crush what you would expect from one in the genre and possibly even be taken quite seriously, something their previous label had no intentions of doing.

-Denis Maile

JENNIE TEBLER'S OUT OF OBLIVION - Till death Tear Us Part

Black Mark

I started by opening the inlay and reading the band members and other info. Well I found out that Jennie Tebler is the lead vocalist and she also does all the vocals and the vocal arrangement, oh she also wrote all the lyrics – yes I get it, Jennie is the singer and as such she takes care of the words. Her name is also the name of the band so she is obviously very important. The music is not what my ears crave, in fact they kind of threw up a bit after listening to it. Jennie Tebler's Out of Oblivion (terrible name by the way) is a Swedish "metal" band with a heavy, sludgy, slow rock sound. Jennie's vocals add an airy Evanescence vibe with a bit more fairy-in-the-hobbit-forest sound. Really, this listening experience has not been a worthwhile one.

-Jym Wilson

METAL X-MAS COMP - We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year 2008

Armoury Records

When I was first handed this to review, I wasn't really looking forward to listening to it – I've never really liked Xmas music, but I was somewhat impressed. Surprisingly, this compilation was put together with an all-star lineup of the greats of old school metal vocals

and guitars: Alice Cooper, Ronnie James Dio, Dave Grohl, Tony Iommi and similar guys from that era of rock/metal. I put on the album and was hit with a giant wall of thick, 80's-trash style guitar distortion playing the familiar songs I detest from my childhood, it was pretty neat! Unfortunately the vocalists attempted, but couldn't quite replicate, the awesome wails of their hay day and seemed to struggle to keep up with the massive guitar sound. I was however, quite impressed with "Silent Night" which was a much more heavy, thrashy song with growling vocals similar to today's metal. I thought the contradiction of huge sound and the song's title was comical. It was pretty cool to hear Dio do "God rest ye merry gentleman", just cause it's Dio and again, very contradictory. Overall, it was a cool novelty.

-Timmey

MR. AWESOME - Ghost Songs

Independent

This is a CD of 13 tracks featuring one man and his guitar, simple as that. He is drunk by song three and that surprised me. Not the fact that he was drunk by the third song, but more so that he was sober for the first two. The songs on Ghost Songs cover all kinds of different topics with simple lyrics that are so effective you wonder how you didn't write them yourself. Mr. Awesome truly has a gift because no one else could sing a song about their dead dog and still have me smiling ear to ear. His song "Great Clown Car Crash" is about the tragic day 13 clown's lives were claimed, and I still giggled as I listened. Maybe I'm just a sicko, or maybe it's because I can picture the drunken minstrel singing his heart out between sips of malt liquor. Mr. Awesome meets all kinds of ghosts on his merry jaunt through the album. "Talking Bathroom Poltergeist" is about a talking ghost that won't shut up while Roy tries to take a big poop. The last song, "Oogopogo Lives" was another favourite, as I really have met people that claim to have seen the sea creature in Lake Okanagan. Now I can add Mr. Awesome to that list.

-Denis Maile

NEUTRAL BOY - Everybody Dies

Fivecore Records

To be honest I am a bit under prepared to review this band. Why? Because according to their Myspace page, Neutral Boy has been around for sixteen years and this is the first I have ever heard of them. So I don't have any previous experience in which to gage this record. What I can say is this Washington punk rock band can write some pretty kick-ass hard hitting tunes. There are a few tracks I could live without like "Baptized by Fire" which has a 90s alt-rock vibe. But then there are hardcore tunes like "Weakling" which carry a bit of an Apocalypse Hoboken sound that I can hear in many of their tunes, which is great. The record even has an acoustic (ish) singsong tune, "Dead Guys, Sing Sad Songs". This record will not only enter my rotation but I am also planning to search out their past endeavours and give them a fair shake. This would be a band worth seeing live.

-Jym Wilson

RAISED BY APES - Destination Nowhere

Project Records

Starting off with a blasting song called "Armed Forces" about the bullshit of war, this disc rips the whole way through. At first I felt that this band sounded a little too like Pennywise for my liking, and though I still feel like that about the first few songs, I have really come

to love the other tunes, and can accept the Pennywise similarities. The diversity of the lyrics on this album helps me to enjoy it, some songs are really serious, and others are just ridiculous lyrically, but tightly played. References to war, Red Riding Hood, Curious George, and Bowen Island all on once disc, you can't really go wrong. But you sure can laugh. Rocks you like Good Riddance with NOFX's sense of humour.

-Chuck Wurley

THE REMEDIALS - Drop Outta School

Remedial Records

The Remedials strike a really nice balance on their second disc. Half the songs have a really catchy pop-punk feel to them, reminiscent of Screeching Weasel, and the other half have ruder, more in-your-face lyrical content, yet still poppy. These songs, such as "Bloody Snot" and "Date Rape" have a more Guttermouth/Queers feel to them. Vocal duties are divided between guitarist Gabe on the former songs, and bassist Wayne on the latter tunes. This second outing by The Remedials is just as polished, well played, and well produced as their first. Once again the great Mr. Jesse Gander at the Hive has been behind the wheel while these boys played the music, and once again he helps them to create a neat, tight piece of work. This CD has something for everyone who is a fan of quick, catchy punk rock.

-Chuck Wurley

RISE AGAINST - Appeal to Reason

DGC / Interscope

I've been a fan since day one and even though music has morphed into a more listener friendly experience, the message is still clear: Rise Against kick ass. If you ask me if this disc stays in my rotation for long, well my guess is that it will not. I suspect I will listen to the shit out of this album for a month or so and then I will go back to the first few albums, which is what has happened since their third release. I do like this record more than The Sufferer and the Witness, but it is in the same vein. I can't help but think that Rise Against feels compelled to put a ballad on every album ever since they started to gain popularity, and it feels a bit contrived. But lyrically the record is full of heavy emotion and musically it is full of anger towards the North American status quo. I appreciate that a message of such conviction and strength is penetrating the mainstream. If all popular music was this good I might start listening to the radio.

-Jym Wilson

ROTTEN FIENDS - 5 Calibur Satan

Ex-Lax Records

Here is a new group of lads who are all about being pissed. To be honest, the record took me back to my younger years, which just left me feeling old. The music is rough and the songs are very unpolished but if these fuckers keep at er' they may end up kicking some ass. Playing old school "fuck you" punk with lyrics about how everyone and everything sucks. They have song titles like "Macho Asshole", "Fucking Fascist Bastards" and "Stupid Jocks" these high school punks are bitching about the same thing I was... fifteen years ago. It's good to know not much has changed. Except for maybe the Internet and reality TV shows. What can I say? Check these boys out and give them props for keeping some young blood in the scene.

-Jym Wilson

SARDONIS - Self-Titled

Electric Earth

One of the newest doom metal bands from the European scene is the instrumental, two man

band, Sardonis. Their new vinyl 7" features four songs that stray away from traditional down tempo, powerchord doom metal as they explore the more diverse riffs and skull banging tempos of modern doom metal. Sardonis shifts gears from fast to slow and diversifies their riffs and chords to keep the listener's attention. This EP features both fast and slower doom-rock oriented songs that force the listener to headbang themselves into oblivion or, conversely, stare off in a dreamy, purple-haze daze. The one song that best encompasses Sardonis' sound, style and approach is the song "Sick Horses". The band has the ability to be mellow, psychedelic, and skull crushingly heavy all in the same song. This is one heavy, downtuned, vinyl EP that acts as a prelude to the oblivion that will surely be the follow up full-length, expected in 2009.

-Ryan 'Platoon' Primrose

SELF INFILCTED - In Case You've Got Nothing Nice to Say

Independent

Ahhh yes, Victoria's answer to Hatebreed returns with seven deadly tracks. Recorded in their jam space, Self Inflicted pulled off a thick, heavy and angry sound and I expected nothing less. The album opens with a sweet sample and if any of you remember Victoria's Laffing Stock (one of my favs from back in the day) you will know this sample 'cause it also is the opening on their demo, Small. I have to give props to Lincoln's drumming 'cause he just slays, and Ross Bay for hitting the guitar and filling in on bass. Well done. Everyone stepped up for this one and it shows. The whole record is tight so buy it and support local hardcore. Pick up a copy of this disc at the Self Inflicted CD release party at Logan's on December 19, 2008.

-Jym Wilson

SOUND AND FURY - Sound and Fury

Rebel Youth

Two things are certain: the first is that it's not 1987 anymore – but don't tell these guys, and the second is that I do not like this disc. What is not certain is this band's objectives.

-Pauly HC



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HEY HO! HO! HO!

Are they serious or is this supposed to be a parody? My issues are only that Sound and Fury, for the most part, have unfortunate lyrics and boring music. Their songs are blatant rip offs that range from early Alice Cooper, AC/DC and a list of other rock bands ranging from the late 70s, to the early 90s. Yeah I hear a bit of Iggy and other punk pioneers but the cheese factor vetos all. The disc opens with a song called "Schools' Out". No really it does. "Teenage Rampage", which is the second track ain't so bad, just a straight-up rock tune. The song that made me do a double take, and then burst out laughing, is called "Highschool Hotbox". I recommend checking this song out, let me leave you with some of the lyrics, "Now that girl has turned 16, givin' all the boys there first wet dream. She's got style, teenage child if you please she is so cool, in school such a tease. Cause the whole towns all lit up, everybody wants a sip from her cup. She's a highschool hotbox. I wanna party in your hotbox".

-Jym Wilson

Tard - Disgorging Guttural Regurgitations...

Comatose Records

Best album name of 2008 goes to these four gutter demons. I have to respect any band that comes up with a 39 word title and includes every gnarly descriptive word you could possibly think of, including my favourite, RECTAL SEEPAGE. Disgorging Guttural Regurgitations of dismembered Disembowelment and Effluvius Visceral Entral Secretions with a side of Emaciated Malignant Lymphatic Putrescence, a Glass of Ensanguined Malodorous Discharge to drink & Coagulated Pestular Rectal Seepage for Dessert (with a cherry on top). There you have this album in a nutshell. A full-out grind assault with two fingers of power-violence and a splash of Death Metal. It almost takes longer to say the title than to listen to the album, but that's probably a good thing because any longer and you may just find yourself in a noise-induced coma at the hands of the mighty TARD!

-Pauly HC



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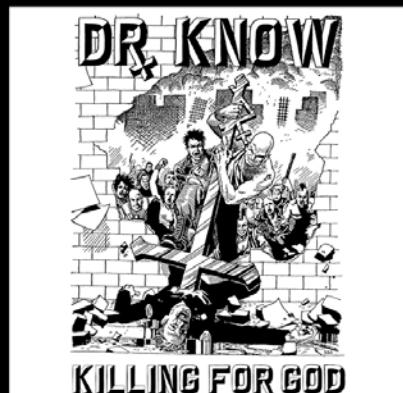
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Artist Profile

Peter Allen/SPER

AU: Who are you and how long have you been an artist?

Peter Allen: I am Peter Allen the Sper. I have made art since crayola. Inventing funny/cool creatures to be my friends got me started, real friends keep me going.

AU: Tell us about your recent art show at Incite?

Allen: I only had a week to paint for that show so I made it about fun. I dressed up like a British safari guy. It was a break from my strict oil painting and a mash up of graff tactics... bucket latex white... and black



Canvases are for gifts or income. I would paint strictly walls if I could, if food and rent, partying and traveling were free... I would paint walls all day for free. Sper for Mayor!

AU: Does most of your work tend to lean to the side of good or evil?

Allen: Honestly a lot of my work has been happy hippy shit. Now I negotiate a balance. I enjoy the realness evil provides. The dark is beautiful, it is often the truth.

AU: What sort of music do you listen to when you paint?

Allen: DUBSTEP. It is dark, deep and dope. It is the music giant spiders from outer space make. I do however, love a blast of psychobilly now and again. The stand-up bass is a goddamn rocket launcher.

AU: What do you have



spray paint, garnished with oil paint. I photographed people at the show running from a giant rhino and we all got silly. Smashing bit of fun I say old chap!

AU: As long standing member in the Victoria graffiti underground. What do you have to say about its current state?

Allen: Big up the kids! Me and my friends, the WHRScrew, painted the Wildfire a few weeks ago and there was



planned for Christmas?

Allen: Whiskey, Vodka, Jagermeister, dubstep, drugs, and kissy kissy.

AU: Any art shows coming up that your works will be on display at?

Allen: Champions of Hell Xmas show Dec 12th at Incite.

AU: Future Plans?

Allen: Marry a girl that can make me laugh, raise some demons and live on a sailboat. I will ply the West Coast like a merchant mariner with the hold chock full with paintings, mate.

www.peterallen.ca



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Absolute Live Reviews

AMON AMARTH/EINSIFERUM

/BELPHEGOR / THE ABSENCE

October 6, 2008 – The Croatian Cultural Centre



It's been a year since Amon Amarth were last in Vancouver, and they're back to promote their new album *Twilight of the Thunder God*. Sporting a much more respectable line-up of bands, this year's show was one I was looking forward to for quite awhile. So let's get down to it.

The Absence were the only North American band on the tour, and really no one was expecting much from them. While they were better than expected, they weren't really that interesting musically. Hailing all the way from Austria, Belphegor came out with some real intensity that connected with the audience and got the fists pumping. A very "dissonant" blackened death group, but not too sure about the gimp mask at the end. They'll be back with Kreator later this year. A lot of people at the show obviously came to see Einsiferum, the "NOT Amon Amarth" viking folk metal band. They performed with tons of energy and were definitely awesome. Very epic. The set list could have been better, but the "super Mario" ending was pretty interesting. Amon Amarth really were pretty amazing, as usual. While they did play some of the new songs like "Twilight..." and "Guardians of Asgaard", they didn't play as much of the new stuff as some may have wanted, but their stage presence is still pretty hard to beat. The performance suffered a bit from some overly scripted audience banter, and repetition from last year's show. Even so, if you're one of the few people reading this who hasn't checked these Norse protectors of metal, you owe it to yourself to do so. Now.

-David Warren

3 INCHES OF BLOOD / EVILE / REBORN PARIAH



October 26, 2008 - The Warehouse, Calgary, AB

Local youngens Reborn Pariah took the stage first. They reveled in their opportunity to open for one of Britain's most promising thrash acts, and one of Canada's more celebrated. With an '86 Reign In Blood tour t-shirt covering his wiry frame, which is probably the year most of the members were born. Singer Troy Berg handled the pressure like an unfazed veteran, though due to a lack of merchandise onlookers had to squint in the dark to find their EP on a drink filled table, in the back of the club, to find out who they were. Huddersfield UK's Evile have mostly found their fame through Rockband, having one of the hardest songs in the game, "Thrasher", giving gamers a run for their money—unless they do it on vocals. Good thing the rest of the songs fucking kill. Evile showed that extreme technicality can be tastefully combined with catchy crunch synchronicity, have a clean sound, and not lose its thrash integrity. They can join the likes of Toxic Holocaust and Municipal Waste as the flag bearers of this new wave. You've also gotta love a bloke who wore two Bret Hart t-shirts for one night in Calgary. After the blood red lighting for the opening bands, it was a relief to see a non-brimstone color for the headliner. Three Inches thrashed, but after Evile, it was like trying to tear up shards of paper that had already been through a wood chipper.

-Dyerbolique

GOREGAMES

Oct 31, 2008 - The Underground, Calgary, AB



In the middle of the second annual Gore Games, someone dressed as Edward Scissorhands struggled to use the ATM machine. His razor fingers continued to slip off the buttons as he parched his lips, frustrated, in hopes to get a drink in the next 20 minutes. You know he wouldn't be asking one of the three Freddy Kruegers creeping around the place for a helping hand. The lowlifes of Calgary shovelled inside the Underground like expired tootsie rolls in a sperm stained pillow sack for a night of permissible debauchery. With the rotten and hammy Thomas the Pain Engine hosting and Miss Demeanor directing the caustic celebration, excitement levels were on par with that of a girlfriend claiming they'd be a nun for Halloween, and finding her later in a skin tight Catwoman costume. Scorched Banditos were down a member, but were fortunate that the moon was full, as the ever willing Wolfman used his lycanthropic powers to assist the band on the low end. Learning their set in about the amount of time it takes a man to morph into a husky beast, he saved a tough spot on Halloween night as the band went through a makeup-less, no-nonsense, hard hitting set that had some wondering if there

was a problem to begin with. It is amazing that Sacred Ally put on such a great set dressed as pandas, ninjas, and other movement-restricting costumes. They put on expertise guitar aerobics; their three year anniversary a heroic metal meltdown which made a lot of mummies happy. Speaking of mummies, bandages didn't really help cover up the bare bones of the many Egyptian carcasses running amok, while the costumes of others failed to conceal bones created after looking at them. Rotten meat, dead rat skeletons and doll limbs were toiling around for any Betty Boop, Sweeney Todd or member of Slipknot who wanted to catch a bite, if they were to get a fierce hankering while watching people fill themselves up sucking foot long worms off of another. Or slurping the reddened tit of a lush Marilyn Monroe. The tits were practically popping through the roof of the Underground and into the Warehouse as the bloody t-shirt contest went underway. Good thing they didn't – who, besides the Toxic Avenger, would want to suck a glowing breast? For what seemed like hours, the contestants soaked another's lumps with blood from different devices. Squirt guns, pitchers, hands; if there was ever a way to saturate a tit, it was used right then and there. Even old Thomas fell right on his ass. Just call it a candy apple.

-R.Dyer

GOGOL BORDELLO

October 10, 2008 – The Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver, B.C.

What do you get when you cross your grandpa's old polka albums, a traveling circus, and that amazing feeling you had the first time you listened to your favourite punk album? That's right, it sounds weird; and it is. I first came across this band years ago. As soon as I heard Eugene utter the words "All girls want to be carnal with me because I am such a premium dancer" I knew I was in love. Hailing from east side NY, with 9 members, including two female dancer/vocalists, a violin player, and an accordion player, Gogol Bordello is an assault on the ears akin to the tearing down of the Berlin wall. Their eastern European influences are crossed with a "fuck you" punk attitude, which creates something that has never been heard before. The combination of Eugene's accented lyrics with the rest of the band's passion and energy on stage almost gave me an orgasm. The floor was pumping, and it was seriously one of the best pits I have ever been in. Barely any aggression; everyone was there to have a good time and sing along even if they didn't know the words. Actually, I think while pogo-ing in the pit, I did have an orgasm! And it wasn't nearly as good as what was happening on the stage! They did three encores and to top it all off... in the middle of the show Eugene introduced a "premium local Vancouver guy" who came out on stage and proposed to his girlfriend. The band was even nice enough to share a bottle of champagne with them before breaking into "American Wedding". I feel sorry for anyone who missed this show. You have no excuse because they played the Commodore again the next night to another sold out crowd. For those who have never heard, I strongly suggest you go buy their cd, go home and put it on, strip down to your underwear, tie a scarf around your head, and dance around your living room while you drink a 1.5 litre bottle of CabSav along to Eugene's "da-da-daa's".

-Ange Trash

DISMEMBER / AUGURY / EXIT STRATEGY

Nov 5, 2008 - The Stetson,

Calgary, AB

I got to the show late and missed one of Calgary's favorites Exit Strategy. For a weekday show, The Stet had a good turn out for sure. Montreal's Augury was up and in my opinion they are one of Canada's diamonds. Maybe not the most thrilling to watch live, but to listen too, yes. They are so on point with the music, so very technical and I swore the drummer's limbs were a separate entity from the rest of his body. I've seen Augury before but this time they sounded more together and polished than ever before. They played a wide variety of tunes across all the albums and ended the set off with one of my favorites, Beatus. The crowd was into it and they made sure to thank us all for crawling down, truly a class act. It seemed like the audience was divided equally with who they were there to see. Finishing off the night was Sweden's Dismember, for how many years have they been around, I was amazed at how young these guys looked, and how out of place the drummer looked. Regardless of reading books by covers, these guys totally slayed. The audience had thinned out a bit but everyone was rocking none the less. I caught about half the set then I had to get to work, but from what I saw, the stage presence and how into they all were, it just fueled the fire for everyone, there was energy and electricity coursing through us all. It was a wall of hair flying and fists flailing. Very exciting to see. Nice to see some acts from far away, being in Calgary a lot of out-of-country bands skip over us, so kudos to Jess for that one.

-Demonika

CIDER FEST - TROLLBAND / SYSTEM SHIT / NYLITHIA / RECKONER

November 8, 2008 – The Cobalt, Vancouver, B.C.

Trollband's first headlining gig, on their one year anniversary! I came running in just as Reckoner was starting their set, and immediately I was into their groove. These guys have been looking for a vocalist for a long time, though it's debatable if they really even needed one. They are definitely "progressive", with some sections of their songs that you might be surprised to hear from a metal band. Thumbs up! One of my favourite local bands, Nylithia, was on second. These guys are a great mix of thrash, grind, death, and maybe even sci-fi/industrial. Very brutal and heart pounding, but not stupid or macho like some other bands. Some of their songs even have a message – what a crazy idea. System Shit came out of nowhere, they were the only punks at a metal show. But they knew it and they didn't care. Not being adverse to punk myself, I was pretty into it, actually. Despite comments about "We know it sounds like shit, it's punk, it's supposed to!" I thought that they actually sounded good, in an obvious low-fi sort of way. Hell, it's Cider Fest, everyone's drunk anyway. Trollband finished the night off with their typical folk metal shenanigans. With up to seven guys on stage at once I felt a little sorry for the sound dude in the back, who was obviously having some issues. These guys could really do with some more equipment on their back-end, since the sound isn't quite as big as you'd think. It didn't really matter though, as always Trollband's greatest asset is their overwhelming sense of camaraderie. What other band in town encourages their audience to link-arms and get some serious jiggling going on? The night featured the first time their keyboardist Dan actually brought out his accordion, as well as guest vocalist Ben from Morbid Surgeon. They played pretty much all of their songs, as well as a few covers, long into the night.

-David Warren

Send Us your Live Reviews by Email admin@absoluteunderground.ca

DISMEMBER / AUGURY / UNLEASH THE ARCHERS

November 8, 2008 - Soprano's, Victoria, B.C.

It takes a lot to get me out of the house these days, but occasionally a show comes to town that falls under that "be there or kick yourself later" category. Hearing that Dismember was coming to town definitely fell under that category. It's been a long time since an old school Swedish death metal band was in this neck of the woods, that of course being when Entombed rolled through on the Wolverine Blues tour so many years ago. Apparently this tour was to celebrate Dismember's 20th anniversary as a band and they certainly didn't disappoint. The show opened up with locals Unleash the Archers and the first thing that was apparent to me was just how awful the sound was for them. It was a shame, since the band put on a good set that was tight and solid. I did find some of the songs a little too busy for my liking at times with the singer's melodic voice being buried in a barrage of note dense riffing. Perhaps it was the fact that the speakers in the PA sounded broken at times during their set that made me feel this way. I didn't see the band open for 3 Inches of Blood the next week with better sound so of course I'm only guessing. Augury from Quebec was up next, but I went to the back of the club to chat with friends and drink beer. They sounded alright with their technical death metal sound which is prevalent with a lot of bands from that province. Next, most of the crowd moved up front as Dismember took the stage. It was nice to hear the Sunlight Studios sound once again as the band ripped in to tunes from the majority of their catalog. I was surprised and excited to hear songs from classic albums, *Like an Ever Flowing Stream* and *Indecent and Obscene* roaring through the speakers. Even "Casket Garden" from *Massive Killing Capacity* made an appearance, although the band sadly neglected to play anything from the *Pieces* mini LP. The sound from the club itself was still bad which was unfortunate because the band looked like they were happy to be playing for the crowd and the energy was awesome. Cheers to Heather and *Absolute Underground* for bringing them.

-Dyerama

IN FLAMES/GOJIRA

Nov 14, 2008 - Mac Hall, Calgary, AB



This show had a lot more than just In Flames on the bill. The line up was 36 crazy fests, Gojira, All that remains, and In Flames. Thinking I had arrived at a decent hour I was sorely mistaken. Wanting to clothes line myself for missing Gojira, or maybe the promoter for booking them as an opener, I settled into the beer gardens while All that remains finished up. In Flames really surprised me in more than a couple ways. I had pretty much stopped listening to them all together, kind of growing out of there sound, but after seeing them was quickly reminded why I liked them so much. I was absolutely SHOCKED at how many normies were in the crowd; jocks, scrawny pre-teens, scarf wearing emos, the lady at the front desk from the library, moms and dads, now everyone listens to In Flames I guess. I have to give them props tho, band like In Flames put in there time no doubt about it. With 9 studio albums and there beginning around the early 90s its amazing that a metal band can come this far. They are international stars and you could tell just by the audience. Delving into the show they hit the stage with smiles ear to ear. Something not a lot of metal bands are known for. They made the show that much more enjoyable by running around the stage and rocking out like they loved us not like they wanted to kill us or show us how tough they are. Bjorn and Anders were on another level and pushing us all with them. The crowd sung to favorites as they played bits a pieces from every era, cranking on unique sideways lights for cloud connected where the audience nearly blew a nut. They came back for an encore and finished off with Trigger and the name escapes me of the last one, but all in all it was a good set, too bad I missed the rest.

-Demonika

GWAR / KINGDOM OF SORROW / TOXIC HOLOCAUST



November 9, 2008 - MacEwan Hall, Calgary, AB

The Unrest Fest was most likely a warzone when Toxic Holocaust played there last month. At MacEwan Hall, it was a bunch of doo-wop kids standing around in a small fart bubble of a circle pit and stinking up the middle. Not Joel Grind's fault, it's just that TH is made for venues tight as a fallout shelter and with fans taking booze bottles to the gut in an intoxicated

SNFU / LEFT SPINE DOWN / LAST**PLAGUE**

November 15, 2008 -The Red Room, Vancouver, B.C.



Opening band Last Plague made sure we'd remember their contribution to our ringing ears long after the show ended. With a sound somewhere between metal and modern hardcore, they wooed the sparse crowd to the front with screeches and growls aplenty. The sounds emanating from singer Heath were nearly demonic at times, making us wonder what exactly was hiding behind his untamed curtain of hair. Left Spine Down were impressive as hell. When lead vocalist Kaine began by singing into a megaphone, he quickly established that this was no ordinary band. Their cyberpunk sound is a fusing of many genres from metal and industrial to punk and electronica. Having Denyss and Jeremy, formerly of The Black Halos, and Front Line Assembly among their ranks makes it clear how they've managed to craft such a unique sound. Sadly, despite the best efforts of the band the crowd never gave them more than the standard head-nod. Most were probably standing back to avoid unsightly face melting from the sheer force of their performance. As we listened to the Dropkick Murphys for the third and final time, SNFU's Mr. Chi Pig unpacked his tickle trunk. He was outfitted in what was easily the shiniest suit known to man. Completing his ensemble with an Elvis mask, he strode onstage and launched into "I Forget." The set list laid out like a "best of" from the band's wide repertoire, and donning a headdress for "Buffalo Jump" followed by the famous pig mask, frontman Mr. Chi Pig kept the audience engaged the entire set. "Don't Have The Cow" was dedicated to Wendy 13, who left The Cobalt for a few hours to catch the show. The song was a favourite of the crowd, who sang-along so enthusiastically that they easily drowned out the band. "Cannibal Cafe" was the last song of the 40-minute set, leaving people so content that they started filing out before "This Is The End" drew them back in for the encore.

-Nara A

BOOZAPALOOZA 2 - THE TOWN PANTS / RUN GMC / DUSTIN BENTAL

November 20, 2008 - The Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver, B.C.

Why I chose to time my herbal detox cleanse around a live show billed as Boozapalooza is beyond me. I was just tucking into a cup o' tea when 22-year-old Dustin Bentel (Yep, Barney's kid) hit the stage in an old country outfit and a mean hell-bent, electric guitar frenzy. With a capable backing band he moved through fast and slow paced odes to water holes, weed, and whisky drinkin' women. His songs are the

kind you could slip into the stereo at 2 a.m. after a blowout fight has sent the better half packin' out the door and the only way to get a good, guilt-free sleep is with the help of a few tumblers of rye and secret tear or two. Run GMC followed and complete with hay bales this seven (?) piece country outfit instigated dance fever with their Primus-meets-Jackass swagger. My eyeballs almost exploded trying to figure out what to look at: the plate-sized belt buckles? The leg/beer holsters? The phenomenal fiddle player? The two guys playing the washboards? The adroit lap-steel guitarist with a screaming pocket of fans at his end of the stage? It was all just a bizarre and endearing sight, as the band quickly swept the crowd up off their feet in a fun, boozey, yodeling hee-haws, trucker-style anthems and jamboree freestyle solos. A joint was offered in the pit, during the band's epic johnny Cash-medley ending, but I stoically declined as "weed" is not technically in my list of "yes" foods in the cleanse bible. Sigh. The night finished off with the Town Pants, back from a four month tour, though you wouldn't know it by the momentum in which they hit the stage. shaking the shingles with a "little Irish ditty" that brought the full-house closing in around them. The spastic tin-whistle player was the zaniest thing I've possibly seen this year, followed closely by the mohawked fiddle player. This band has been around forever but havae morphed from a pudgy trio on the university circuit, to an explosive band that can exhaust the heartiest of party goers with a night of jiggling, drinking and all around good time debauchery.

-Emily Boozeless

SINNED / TROLLBAND / ANCIENT OBLITERATION / MORBID SURGEON

November 21, 2008 - The Cobalt, Vancouver, B.C.

The Cobalt on a friday night, does it get any better than this? Shockingly, Morbid Surgeon hit the stage relatively on time. With all these young bands comes a crowd that shows up early and likes to move, and the band gave them some heaviness for which to do that. Frequently trading off on the vocals, the guys kept things interesting. While maybe a little on the generic side, they make up for it with enthusiasm and spirit. This was Ancient Obliteration's first show as a three-piece, but the loss of a guitar player didn't seem to hold them back at all. It was a pretty surreal sight to see so much soul crushing sound coming out of three small guys. I'd describe them as The Doors being stabbed in the eye with an ice pick. I like it. Trollband was up shortly after, and as usual they got the house jumping to their folky melodies. Lead singer Andrew forgot his bodhran on the sofa, so he just banged on the mic with his hand, which worked out fairly well. I just wished he would stop pouring beer on the front row. Despite some technical difficulties, drummer Marcell seemed to hold up well after playing two sets in a row (also the drummer for Ancient Obliteration), though he should really get something to hold his glasses on. Sinned blew the roof off the place with their insane level of talent. These guys are truly awesome with a suffocating intensity. They hit the mark with every level of their production, but really the best part for me is you can actually head bang to it without getting bored either. The set list was a mix of new and old, but in particular it was nice to hear some favourites like "Wrath" and their "Death" cover was a particular crowd pleaser. As they are working on their new album, this was their last show for awhile. I look forward to hearing the new material next summer!

-David Warren

PRIESTESS/BISON BC/FLASH LIGHTNIN'/ BARN BURNER


November 25, 2008, HiFi Club, Calgary, AB

I didn't catch much more than a song by Montreal's Barn Burner, but liked what I heard. I checked out their myspace and dammit...good stuff. Flash Lightnin' brought the swampy, boogie rock. Not what I was expecting, but it turned out to be a nice change of pace for the evening. At times I closed my eyes and imagined ZZ Top had stormed the stage. The crowd clearly enjoyed it, even though I was a bit caught up in the "Bison is next, so hurry the fuck up" mood. This Tuesday night double bill was sold out and it's easy to see why. Bison destroyed. I don't know why I stand directly in front of giant speakers sometimes, but in a case like that it seems like a great idea at the time. And I'd do it again. Goddamn they sound perfect live. I was kind of pissed afterwards that they only played material from Quiet Earth, but unfortunately it wasn't officially a double bill and they couldn't play all night, I guess. Priestess is a worthy headliner any time and I liked their new material. My ears were already bleeding though. It was a helluva show.

- Jeff VandenElzen

METALLICA/LAMB of GOD/The SWORD

December 5, 2008 - Pengrowth Saddledome, Calgary, AB

Acquiring Metallica tickets just wasn't too much of a priority back, to what seems like almost six months ago, when they went on sale. I did want to see the show, but when you have seen a band several times, that hundred dollar + price tag kinda takes the wind out yer sails. However after learning that opening act the Sword would be touring Europe with mag fav's Bison BC in the near future made the bill alot more interesting.

Well thanks to a paranoid Saddledome security staff, we missed the Sword while we were waiting to enter the building. By the time we got inside, at around 7:30, Lamb of God were moving full steam ahead into their set. We missed the Sword and were fucking choked! Take note at future Saddledome shows to get there before 6pm to catch the show opener. Thanks but no thanks LOG as we headed straight to the Whisky lounge and found it comical how the show's producer was trying to limit the crowd's booze intake by limiting one drink per person. We were informed of this by large signage throughout the lounge. By the time Metallica hit the stage they kept a fast pace and after playing several ripping tunes off the new album, (songs that seem like covers of their old stuff) and went back into the old archive and seemed to group many of the songs by album, closing with a few off Kill'em All and ending the night with Seek and Destroy. They destroyed all right.

- Coke Gibson



21 and Under... with Anvil

By E.S. Day

AU: So, Sundance Film Fest. You're currently pushing the new documentary...

Lips: It's pushing us and we're pushing it.

AU: Is this reviving the band as a whole or are you guys out here to do the film thing? Is Anvil back?

Rob: Anvil never went anywhere.

Lips: We never stopped playing around. Unfortunately the tour out here is extraordinarily expensive and there's much in between here and Toronto. Nothing against middle Canada but the cities are virtually a day apart. Especially with the price of fuel – there's dozens of reasons, but are they excuses? I guess that's subjective. We've been going to Europe and the Ontario/Quebec area. We've been playing in the north east of the states a lot. This is all through the years. We've always kept it going and kept a recording career. Which I'm proud to say has never been money out of our pocket. Never been ultimate profits like other rock stars get.

AU: But you stuck to your guns.

Lips: We never commercialized, we never sold out and this is what is really integral to what we began and what we're doing. If something like that had happened is has to be utterly and completely natural but it hasn't been natural in the sense that if I had, lets say, a song that could be played on the radio. We'll go back to the song that got edited off our very early album, *Forged in Fire*, a song called "Back Wax."

AU: I remember that.

Lips: Of course you remember that, because by all standards it had what you would like to hear except with the lyrics, which made it completely unacceptable.

Rob: For radio.

Lips: So unacceptable that they pulled it off the album. At the end of the day, what I'm trying to say is that with melody is that... maybe the attitude within the band, particularly myself, I don't want the kids – the heavy metal audience – to think I went out of my way to get radio play. So if I had something melodic like that I'd be worried it would be taken the wrong way so you give it edge. But I've always been very stubborn and set in my ways. So at this point, having a movie made about the band, and if we're going to be made famous from the movie, it's getting my

cake and eating it to because I never had to change in order for that to happen.

Rob: It's a wonderful place to be.

To see this film, Europe obvi-



ously knew who Anvil was...

Lips: We've been working it for years. That's what's backed our career, is Europe.

AU: But this Spinal Tap reference, all the time. That bothers me. I don't find this to be funny.



Rob: It's a good catch that works on the outside, when people come in they realize it's nothing like that.

AU: What about the lawyer, what happened with him?

Rob: You should see the out-takes on him.

Lips: A headbanging lawyer.



Rob: They just followed us around for a few years and filmed everything that happened.

Lips: I didn't even know that segment was filmed until I saw it. To put into perspective what you're watching, everything that is there is actually happening. Some things were edited for that particular feeling or direction. It's directing. The overall thing is as true as can be, but at the same time it's put together in such an ingenious way, by a brilliant director so you understand a story of what happened while being entertained.

Rob: It's a good representation that needed to be told about us, and that we've been around for a long time and pioneered this type of music that everybody got to know as metal. And all

the records that we've made and we're still here.

Lips: This has been a really successful career in a certain sense because we already have more albums than some of the biggest bands that have ever existed (13). And on top of that, it's not like we had millions of dollars to make these albums. We were able to make albums that were decent, in house.

Rob: 300 per cent integrity.

AU: Is this film going to enable you to go out and do another Reading festival or...?

Rob: They're petitioning for us to play Glastonbury next year.

Lips: Don't misunderstand. We've been doing festival throughout the years. Sweden, Wacken, Bang Your Head...

AU: It never ended!

Lips: In the eyes of North America it ended 20 years ago (Laughs.) But we kept going under the radar.

Rob: Germany, Sweden, England, Greece, Italy, Holland. All those places...

we always stayed dedicated because they always supported the band. Here in Canada, things just didn't work out.

Lips: Quite sadly, I've been to Germany ten times more than I've been to Vancouver. 92 was our last time here.

Rob: We're untapped here; we're like a new band.

Lips: The North American market is very strictly trend oriented, it's just as simple as that.

Rob: We never had real record companies, real managers, and real agents. All the stuff that makes bands big. That's the real reason.

AU: Theatrical release for this film?

Rob: In England it's Feb 20, here it'll be in April.

Lips: We're not informed enough. The director is holding all the cards.

AU: Thoughts on Ray Wallace passing away?

Rob: His anniversary is anytime now. Like a year ago right now.

Lips: Just before this was finished it happened. That's one of the most troubling things we've had to go through in the last while. Had he been here, he'd probably been involved at some level. He's been involved all along. Booked gigs for us, telling us where to find a gig. He'll be missed.

(Anvilmovie.com)

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R.I.P.
Frankie Venom
1957 – 2008

**SOME DAY YOU'LL REMEMBER ME
AND PICTURE MY FACE
SOME DAY YOU MAY SMILE AT ME
AND I'LL WALK AWAY
YESTERDAY I NEEDED A BUCK
TODAY I NEED A BANK
BUT I KNOW WHO WAS ALWAYS THERE
IT'S ME I HAVE TO THANK**

Frankie Venom aka Frank Kerr, the legendary singer of Canadian punk rockers Teenage Head passed away from throat cancer on October 15th, the same day it was announced his band would be presented with the Hamilton Music Awards Lifetime Achievement Award. The band swept the awards, winning Record of the Year, Best Punk Record, and of course Best Male Vocalist. Venom got his recognition after all. Born in Glasgow, Scotland and raised in downtown Hamilton, Frank Kerr (aka Frankie Venom) is one of the strongest voices of Canadian punk rock. Taking elements of rockabilly and 1950's rock n' roll, and fusing it with the aggressive sensibility of the era, Frankie and the band broke new musical ground in Canada. Always known for putting on a good show and being a straight-up, working class musician, Venom was still drinking and kicking ass to the very end. No cash-grab "reunion tours" here. One of the first generation punk bands to emerge in 1975, Frankie and the band developed the punk genre right alongside the New York Dolls, The Clash and The Ramones, in boisterous shows across North America. Most recently, the band has had two successful Western Canadian tours and put out a chart-topping record with Marky Ramone, putting a new spin on some classic Head material. Frankie Venom, you will be missed.

—Erik Lindholm



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Absolute DVD Reviews

Blindness

Blindness is a unique Canadian film based on the novel by Nobel-Prize winning Jose Saramago and directed by Fernando Meirelles which received a huge buzz at this year's International Film Festival. In an overexposed and ambiguous setting, losing one's vision is becoming an epidemic, forcing those contaminated into a heavily guarded and closed off hospital, which soon becomes a paradise of the directionless. With no one seeing where to piss or shit, it soon becomes quite the filthy little sector. Think of the quarantine scenes in *28 Days Later* or *The Crazies*: the military becoming such scumbags and only wanting the survivors in their headquarters for the use of their women. *Blindness* uses this element, only here the blind asshole with the gun gets his say, demanding the food and women of his visionless comrades. It explores the facet of the deepest danger not the symptom of being unable to see, but how humanity handles it. As with films like *Day of the Dead* or *Night of the Living Dead*, the power struggle between humans is at the forefront, with the ongoing problem of blindness being the afterthought. Julianne Moore is immune to the blindness, and becomes a God like entity with the gift of vision. Of course, when it's all over, was she benefitted from not being affected, or would she have rather seen the light for the first time, once more?

-Ryan Dyer

Choke

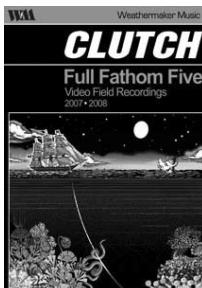
Since 1999's *Fight Club*, Chuck Palahniuk fans have eaten up his countless counter culture cookbooks, likely imagining each as they're read in cinematic style. It becomes hard to separate narrative voices when watching *Fight Club* and then reading *Invisible Monsters*, or *Lullaby*, so when *Choke* begins and a nasally Owen Wilson-looking Sam Rockwell starts telling us about his sex addictions, his mother bestowing him

pseudo-wisdom in a school bus, and his choking on food to receive cheques from his saviors, one wishes Edward Norton would somehow show up in a cameo to deliver one of those cement-cutting lines in such a cynical, and should I say, Palahniuk way. The problem with this version of *Choke* may just be the amount of time it took to get to screen, causing the hardcore Palahniuk fan to use up his DVD version of *Fight Club* to the point of being stuck on the interior of one's DVD player. We are just too used to the style David Fincher created, making *Choke* look like a slightly intellectual lighthearted screwball comedy, with definite quirky features, along the lines of a Wes Anderson film. The problem isn't the content, but the delivery. While first time director Clark Gregg gives us a good recall of *Choke*, (but where's the monkey man on the internet?), this just isn't something you'd want to swallow on a monthly basis.

-Ryan Dyer

Clutch: Full Fathom Five (Video Field Recordings 2007-2008)

If you are a Clutch fan and you have never seen this powerhouse perform live, then this DVD could bring forth one of two scenarios. The first is that you will get depressed and want to throw this fucking DVD out of the window because you have not experienced this for yourself. Or, you will be able to just lay back and enjoy the fact that Clutch are in your living room. I have experienced this force of nature more than once so to be honest I enjoyed seeing



the DVD – although watching them on my screen only made me really want to see them live once more. I loved all the different angles, the fact that the song selection spanned most of their career, and that the shows were from varying places. I truly love Clutch and live makes them that much better.

-Jym Wilson

Eargoggles, Fall '08

This DVD is a very strong and is an inclusive representation of the all the greatness that goes on at the Cobalt. If for some reason you don't know of the place, well then you should really go down to Main St. on the eastside of Vancouver and check it out. While you're there, make sure you pick up this DVD. Then you can even enjoy the Cobalt from your living room. *Eargoggles Fall '08* edition is packed with punk, metal, karaoke, acoustic rock, burlesque, new wave, a short film about a battle between a ninja and skaters, and a really sweet skate video! All the footage of bands playing at the Cobalt is well shot and really captures the atmosphere and feeling of being at Vancouver's favourite hardcore bar! Among some of the best musical moments are: Lesbian Fist Magnet, Gross Misconduct, Mr. Plow with Mr. Chi Pig, Uptown Riot, Sweathogz, The Jolts, Alcoholic White Trash, and All Purpose Voltage Heroes. Not only are there 27 bands in total, but the editing is very entertaining. One of the best examples is the clip of the boys in the movie *Office Space* beating up the fax machine, which is entitled *Fuck the Fax*, and of course it comes right before *Fuck the Facts* is seen playing. Thank you for bringing a such a wonderful bar and music scene to the comfort of my home. -Chuck Wurley

Mother of Tears

27 years ago acclaimed Italian filmmaker Dario Argento released his first and arguably best film, *Suspiria*. Three years later, the semi-sequel *Inferno* was released and a full-blown trilogy was underway. After almost 30 years of anticipation, the third and final chapter in Argento's *Three Mothers* trilogy has finally arrived. In comparison to its predecessors, *Mother of Tears* is a modern twist on the classic, supernatural witch tale, still pungent with

the aroma of old-school Italian horror. It's like a breathe of fresh air; an experience to enlighten your senses. The film follows a young art history student named Sarah (played by Dario's daughter, Asia Argento) who discovers an ancient urn containing a curse that awakens an ancient witch known as "The Mother of Tears". The city of Rome is plagued by suicide, violence, and death and it is up to Sarah to use her supernatural abilities to bring the chaos to an end and kill the witch for good. Sarah's attempt at heroism is interrupted by a coven of witches from around the world who have united in Rome to wreak havoc and celebrate the rebirth of their leader. In American horror, women are essentially portrayed as the weaker of the sexes, often playing the role of the helpless victim – usually the first to die as a result of a lack of intelligence. Where as Italian horror cinema is often defined by the empowerment of women. *Mother of Tears* contains a lot of strong imagery, which symbolizes the strength of women; the color red, female nudity/sexuality, as well as both female antagonists (witches) and protagonists. *The Three Mothers*' trilogy is a nice change from your typical run-of-the-mill horror films, which focuses mainly on brainless, big-breasted women getting naked and then ruthlessly hacked to pieces throughout the duration of the film. *Mother of Tears* may be overflowing with nudity and sex (featuring what could possibly be the sickest blood orgy of all time), but it is also equipped with a solid plot stemming from two memorable predecessors, ripe talent and gratuitous gore. Dario Argento once again fails to disappoint.

-Lacey Morris

Patti Smith, Dream of Life

Knowing what a huge worshipper I am of the goddess, the people at *Absolute Underground* immediatly got in touch with me when they heard that Patti Smith wanted to pay a visit through my DVD player. She came to me at 2 a.m. and told me of her life through artistic visions, poetry, words and song. She flew me to a room in the Chelsea Hotel where she spoke to me of love, loss and the gifts bestowed on her throughout her life. Later on she took me to the house of her birth, where she introduced me to her parents and then whisked me to China for a buddist ritual. So many things were said and shown and, like it is with any art, I think the key is to try not to understand or judge – but just to let it soak in and subconciously recieve it. I'm so thankfull for the night with Patti and will always stop into her gallery and know that true art is still alive and flowing!

-Billy Hopeless

The Dali Dimension: Decoding the Mind of a Genius

The life of Salvador Dali in fifty minutes, wow. This DVD was great. I knew very little about this eccentric and brilliant man before

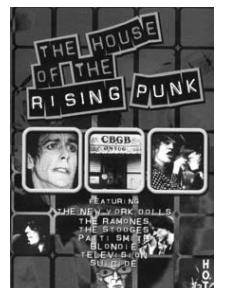
watching this and I feel that I got more than I bargained for. This documentary won various awards and selections at prestigious film festivals, and after viewing it I understand why. I always thought Dali's art was

amazing, but I never realized the science that was behind it all. From Freud to Einstein, the atom bomb to DNA, Dali was on top of it all. He was reading scientific journals and publications and understanding the science behind them all long before they were part of mainstream culture. His public image and his private life were two clashing beasts. He is a man that cannot be understood in this short film – but watch it anyway to see the intense complexity that is Dali.

-Jym Wilson

The House of the Rising Punk

This is a documentary about the birth of punk rock, and one of the undisputed birthplaces of punk rock. CBGBs on the Bowery in NYC. House of the Rising Punk includes many interesting and poignant interviews with a cast of characters from the early CBGBs scene, and a few others who are relevant to music, time, and place. The film starts off with some really great interviews with Richard Hell and Tom Verlaine of Television.



Both are great on camera, and lend a real sense of both authenticity and intelligence to the film and the scene it explores. Even the interview with Dee Dee Ramone is well edited, and Dee Dee is very talkative and alert. I say well edited, as he does start to dig himself into a hole about how little knowledge of music he had. What is awesome about this film is that it serves to remind us that Patti Smith did not sound like the Ramones, and The Talking Heads did not sound like Patti Smith or the Ramones, and none of them sounded anything like Suicide. Yet they all played CBGBs in the 70s, and they all played music that was different from the big rock'n'roll machine of the time that played stadiums and flew around in private planes. The films reminds us that all these different and unique groups fell under the guise of what came to be known as punk.

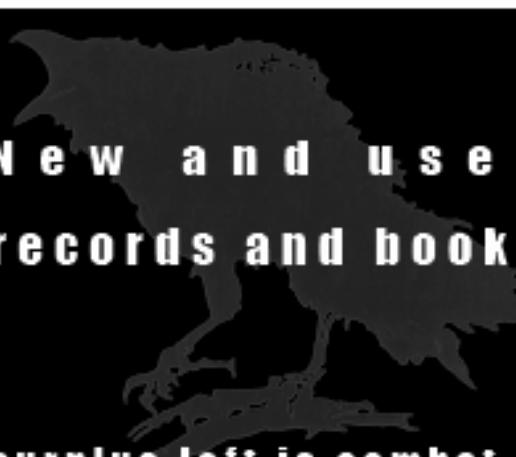
-Chuck Wurley

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ARIES

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TAURUS

Yeah, it is the holiday season with so much to do. Overall, looks as though you can get through this one with out too much frustration and even some measure of satisfaction. Figure out the budget in the first part of December and try to stick to it, this year. You seem to have some actual goals beyond the holidays for which to save. Your public image is doing pretty well. A little extra willingness to cook something or volunteer your time goes a long way towards developing influence. There are some new and interesting social contacts in the picture in latter January.



GEMINI

Sort through your upcoming holiday schedule. Be assertive and direct when dealing with the expectations of others. Don't let others be passive aggressive on you. You know, when they insinuate what you should do, rather than ask you directly. Christmas and New Years are about setting goals. Corny yes, but you do not seem sentimental in your determination to create change. Somehow the source of romance in your life, real or imaginary, changes between Christmas and the end of January.



CANCER

As the Full Moon December 12th arrives, you just want to throw your hands up and surrender. This may be the best way to get through these holidays. Defer to those you trust to prioritize family and business obligations. Be helpful. When it is all done in mid-January you can decide what to stamp, "Never Again". In January, new contacts, insights, and revelations can make a dent into some ingrained patterns that hold you back. It is called healing. Allow yourself to dream bigger. Depending upon reliable others is fine for a lot of things, but don't let anybody hand you your goals and dreams.



LEO

Slow down. Try to be sensitive to the expectations of family, friends, and a partner. It seems as though your intent to have fun pissing off some people who rely upon you. Make sure you put an effort into your job. Your financial situation seems to be tough. Everything looks rosy around Christmas, but this is because people are making an effort to be nice. Don't get too sucked in to the glamour. You shouldn't live in the fantasy that everything is fine, for too long. January you can successfully work on concerns about developing your credit and security.



VIRGO

Around the Full Moon December 12th, assert your self and any authority that you can muster. Because if you are thinking, "I'll deal with this later," you don't get the chance. This Moon is showing you where you are stuck, and where there is work to do, inner and outer. Around the actual holidays there is a less serious tone prevailing and some actual fun to be had. A week into January a year long opportunity for improving effectiveness at work and PRD (personal research and development) begins. Fixing your life starts inside not outside. You are coming into contact with new interesting people around January 21st.



LIBRA

Dreams bring meaning and hope in the first couple weeks of December. Nothing is wrong with a little fantasy. Fake it until you make it. There's lots of goings on domestically and with family these holidays, and those who are close are looking to you to be reliable. A little nostalgia can help you to reconnect to what is important to you. 2009 has more of a fun tone to it and that starts the first week of January. The Full Moon January 10th illuminates your career status. Take note of what needs work, because the next weeks provide plenty of creative opportunities.



SCORPIO

The Full Moon December 12th illuminates your credit status. Cruise through this spending season sensibly. Hope you aren't expecting friends who owe you to come across anytime soon. There is a lot of running around in December. Make flexible plans or wallow in frustration. Chill around the holidays. When family members are making an effort to gloss over differences, go with it. You seem tempted to be overly honest. Please allow the rosy fantasy of a healthy and happy group to persist for awhile. New creative ideas and people come to you in latter January.



SAGITTARIUS

You do seem to have it together this holiday season. You're on time and on budget. Now, only if everyone else would listen to you and follow your simple instructions, they would see the joys of being organized. When that doesn't happen, you need to lighten up, especially around the Full Moon December 12th. This is when you tend to be too pushy and too sensitive. Maybe career pressure is getting to you. All is la la la by Christmas and the weekend following. January holds some surprise expenses. And a weird change in your perspective and habits of thought is brewing.



CAPRICORN

Hope you are open to change, because it is happening to you. As with any significant change it begins with your self image and your thoughts. The first half of December is about the surrender and admitting that you were wrong. As the holidays approach, be sure to can the personal agenda. Feelings of agitation are best not expressed to those close to you. Channel your extra energy into your workout. 2009 is, in part, about increasing your income with new opportunities, providing that you accept that the free ride is over and you have to make an effort.



AQUARIUS

Yes, there may be serious stress coming at you from money, credit, and personal influence issues. Yet, try to lighten your mood and attitude through the first half of December. There is actual fun to be had around the December 12th Full Moon. You are attracting some nice attention and appreciation. Accept it. As we get through these holidays, you will be able to exert a calming influence on the turmoil all around you. In January new opportunities arise for increasing your income and improving your credit. This is just the beginning. 2009 brings you a better life.



PISCES

The first weeks of December require some grandstanding. Stick up for yourself and exert your authority. Even if you are unsure of your position, you do not want to set a precedent of folding under pressure. But then relent and relax by mid-December. The holidays are busy and social. Yet, it all looks light and fluffy. This is not the time for significant developments in romance, friendships, or family relationships. Into January you find creative ways to participate in your community. Open up to new interesting people and perspectives that come to you.



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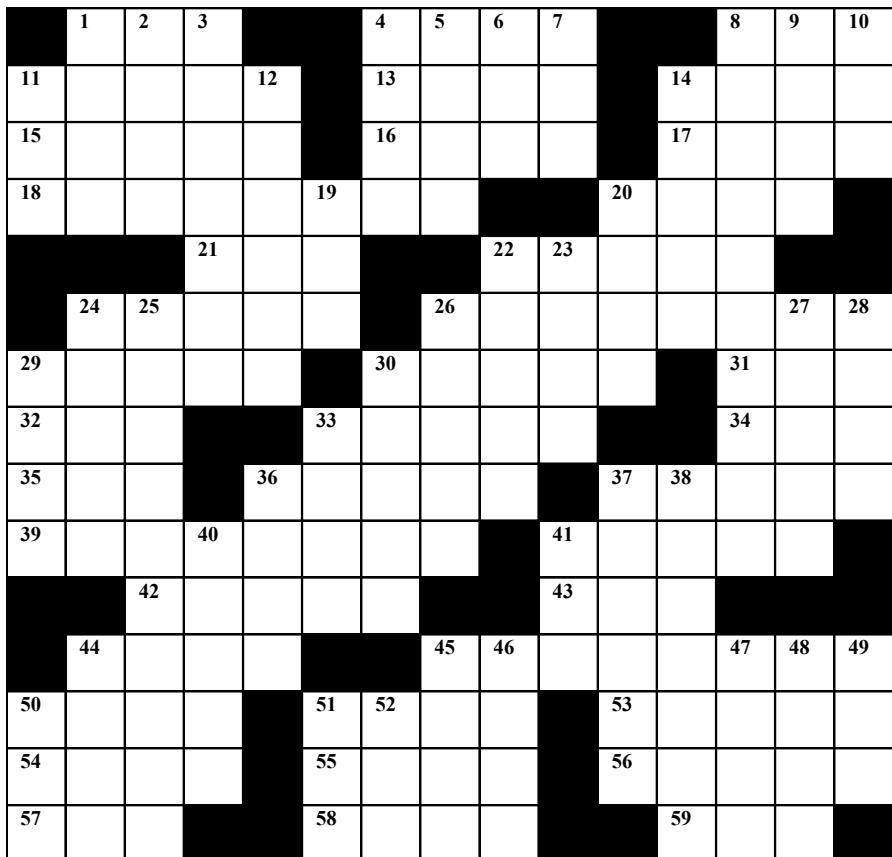
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4. Shift flats
8. League o' the Lakers
11. Licorice All-_____
13. Dumbfounded
14. A hearty dirnk from a jug
15. Japanimation classic
16. NJ team in 8Across
17. Depeche _____
18. sdrawkcab sdaer ohw enO*
20. Hairdo's
21. ___ Vod
22. Largest mammal
24. Ripley's Believe it _____!
26. dnuora deppiF*
29. Oktoberfest Mug
30. Swindles
31. Rage
32. "Dial down the middle 1-800-CALL-_____"
33. Gas for a Dutch Oven?
34. Stihl or Husqvarna

35. Profit after expenses
36. "Hi" in Quebec
37. Mos. After Augs.
39. drawerof toN*
41. Come next
42. Made noise like a cow
43. Not against
44. Young female
45. noitcerid degnahC*
50. Not Intl.
51. A virile male
53. Roust tenants
54. Peel
55. Swoosh brand
56. Marching drum
57. In the style of
58. Not closed
59. Intl. Longshoremen's Union

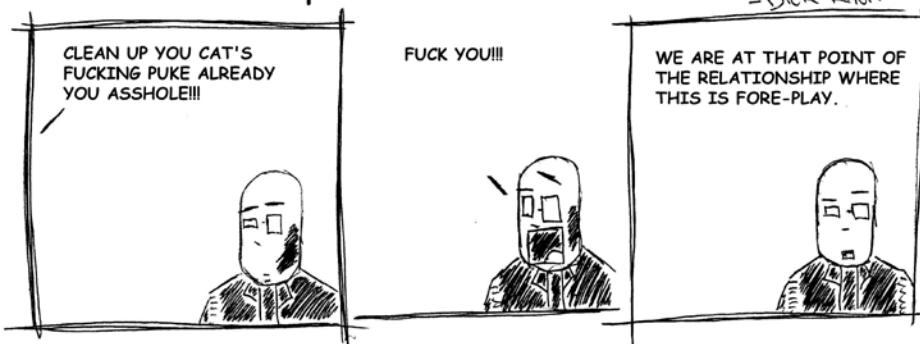
twoD
1. Damon in "Dogma"
2. Word for measuring sugar/alcohol
Content in fermenting wine must
3. nwodedispU snruT
4. Opp of few
5. Was indebted to
6. Pet Doc
7. O'Neill and Sullivan
8. detrevnl*
9. Offers at an Auction
10. Vital stat
11. Scrotum eg.
12. Wild West Pub
14. An upside down frown
19. Command for Fido
20. Rules
22. An Earp
23. Spotlight huggers
24. Seal cousin
25. rettam fo trapretnouC*
26. "A guy who can't get no love from me"

27. Enraged
28. Stitches up
29. Hourglass medium
30. It gets tossed
33. One of The A-Team
36. Cheers in Copenhagen
37. Makes cartoon ZZZZ's
38. nwodedispU
40. Earth e.g.
41. Every buffet has two
44. Windy Woman's name?
45. Bo,Luke or Daisey
46. Genesis Garden
47. Little flask
48. Beige shade
49. Highway sign word
50. National Rifle Association
51. ___ Cone
52. Helpful Hint

* In case you don't FUCKIN' get it, these clues and answers are Written BACKWARD or UPSIDE DOWN



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